

Barclays chief to lead Whitehall Task Force



Taylor: began work as financial journalist

MARTIN TAYLOR, the chief executive of Barclays Bank, was yesterday named to lead one of the most ambitious task forces announced by the Government. The 44-year-old Old Etonian will be the unpaid head of the new Whitehall Task Force.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said that Mr Taylor will examine tax and benefits "to deliver the Government's pledge to streamline and modernise the system to fulfil the objectives of promoting work incentives, reducing poverty and welfare dependency, and strengthening community and family life".

Mr Taylor, a former journalist, chief executive of Courtaulds and non-executive director of WH Smith, will lead the drive to promote work incentives, to reduce

poverty and welfare dependency, and to strengthen community and family life. He read Oriental languages at Balliol College, Oxford, before beginning his working life as a financial journalist with Reuters, stationed in London, Paris and Frankfurt. He later moved to the *Financial Times* before joining Courtaulds, the chemicals company.

He rose to become chief executive of the textiles side before being head-hunted to join Barclays in August 1993.

In his new job, involving about two days' month, he will work closely with Frank Field, the new

Social Security Minister who is looking at longer-term plans to review the benefits and pensions system.

Mr Taylor, who last year earned a package worth £320,000, which included a one-off special bonus, faces a daunting job. He must unite four of Whitehall's largest and most complex ministries and agencies in the Treasury and the Inland Revenue as well as the Education and Social Security Departments. The project is expected to last for about a year.

Mr Brown said of Mr Taylor's role: "It is another example of our new way of working. Governments

in the past have been least good at issues which span departments... Today's appointment harnesses the drive of the private sector to the expertise of government departments to streamline both our tax and benefit systems."

Mr Brown added: "I am delighted that Martin will lead this work. We made it a priority in our manifesto, and Martin will bring to it a first-rate mind and ability to find practical solutions that make a long-term difference."

Mr Taylor said: "I am thrilled to bits with the chance to contribute something positive. Our first job will be to decide on the composition

of the task force, which will be drawn from senior civil servants in the relevant departments. Barclays has been very supportive of my new role."

Patrick Eraut, a national officer of Unif, the Barclays staff union, said: "We are very pleased that Mr Taylor has been chosen for this very important task force. We hope that Barclays will introduce a minimum wage of £4.10p an hour."

Tonight Mr Brown will use his address to the CBI's annual dinner at Grosvenor House to underline Labour's determination to work with business. He will also announce that the CBI has agreed to

be a member of a joint working party with the Government to consult on how best to complete the European single market.

He will reassure his audience that he is not in favour of quick fixes. "With a Labour Government there will be no danger of growth on an unsustainable basis, no risk taking with inflation and no quick fixes," he will say.

His fiscal policy, to be outlined shortly in the Budget, would address the long-term needs of the British economy. "I have set tough rules for government borrowing and for spending and I will publish a plan for deficit reduction in the medium term," he will say.

City comment, page 31

Brown picks Old Etonian to tackle tax and benefits, report Robert Miller and Jill Sherman

Leadership must be settled soon, says senior Tory

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SIR ARCHIE HAMILTON, a leading contender for the chairmanship of the Conservative 1922 backbench committee, warned last night against any delay over choosing a new leader for the party.

Sir Archie advised against any change in the rules to involve party activists this time, but suggested that the winner should be subject to an early vote of the party membership at a special conference.

Nominations close today for the influential post of chairman, a job that has to be filled before the party leadership contest can formally begin. The election of the 1922 chairman takes place tomorrow and up to five candidates are expected to stand.

Sir Archie has made clear that he wants his successor to be elected as early as possible, and it was hoped that the first ballot could be held at the beginning of June. But MPs are under pressure from the National Union of Conserva-

tive and Unionist Associations, which represents party activists, to change the rules of the contest immediately.

One option being mooted is that a caretaker leader could step in until a new system has been sorted out. Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, said yesterday that he would be prepared to consider this role. Other senior MPs believe that an interim system could be put in place to give party chairmen a say, while still allowing the election to be held in June.

Sir Archie, a former Tory defence minister, wrote to all Tory backbenchers warning them of the dangers of postponing the election. He referred to the damaging allegations made by Ann Widdecombe in the Commons against Michael Howard.

The acrimonious exchanges we have witnessed to date reflect badly on the party as a whole and lead many to feel that we should settle it sooner rather than later, he said.

Leading article, page 23

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Isambard Kingdom Brunel will keep his cigar in signs promoting Neyland

Brunel nearly loses cigar to political correctness

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A PASSION for cigars by Isambard Kingdom Brunel has sparked a dispute over the political correctness of using the great Victorian engineer's image to promote a small Welsh fishing town.

Brunel used Neyland in Pembrokeshire as the terminus for his steamships on the Irish sea route, but recent plans to use his likeness to revitalise the town have come unstuck in the local council chamber.

Some councillors thought the cigar-smoking image might encourage youngsters to take up the deadly weed, even though they recognised that there was no better man than Brunel to stimulate the local economy and encourage tourism.

The first phase in the plan,

for which Pembrokeshire County Council earmarked £10,000, was to highlight Neyland's links with Brunel through road signs.

Braze Harvatt, media consultants in Haverfordwest, came up with a chocolate and cream scheme to duplicate the colours of Brunel's Great Western Company. His portrait in stovepipe hat and cigar was then added to the road signs to be placed at the entrance to the town.

There was concern at the general purposes committee about the cigar and the kind of message we were sending out in the light of the Government's proposed ban on advertising cigarettes, council member Ken Edwards said. "There we were, promoting Neyland with a man

with a cigar in his mouth. Although I'm an occasional cigar smoker myself, in the context of what we know now about smoking it's something you cannot ignore."

But fellow council members were quick to defend the striking artwork. Simon Hancock said: "I think it was taking political correctness a little to extremes." His views were shared by a majority and, when the matter was discussed at a subsequent meeting of the full council, earlier concerns were swept aside and it was decided to accept Brunel as he was.

"The signs can do nothing but enhance the image of the town and I cannot imagine anyone would take them as an advertisement for smoking," Mr Hancock said.

Tobacco adverts and sport

Continued from page 1 waiting to see whether the legislation would prevent coverage on British screens of hundreds of events in countries where tobacco sponsorship is not banned.

Announcing the ban, Mr Dobson dismissed claims by the companies that advertising and sponsorship served merely to encourage existing smokers to change brands rather than to entice new customers. He said the legislation was part of a concerted programme to reduce tobacco consumption "using every possible lever of government".

"We recognise that some sports, like smokers, are heavily dependent on tobacco sponsorship," he said. "We do not wish to harm these sports. We will therefore give them time and help to reduce their dependency on the weed and replace it with sponsorship from more benign sources."

Mr Dobson was cheered by the 1,500 delegates. Christine Hancock, the college's general secretary, said: "We are absolutely delighted. Tobacco is the

single worst cause of preventable death. It is a disgrace that no Government until now has taken appropriate measures on this significant issue."

Sir Rodney Walker, chairman of the English Sports Council and the Rugby League, said many sports would have trouble finding alternative sponsors and Robert Holmes, chairman of the British Darts Organisation, said: "Darts is under threat - it's a huge blow."

Rob Hughes, page 53

Master of the English Sports Council, denied yesterday that he had agreed to meet republicans to discuss July's loyalist parade at Drumcree, Co Armagh. He insisted that he would not meet anyone linked to Sinn Fein and the IRA. John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, claimed on Sunday that he had brokered the talks, and said he had cleared his statement with Mr Sauls.

Sinn Fein pair make a meal of visit to Commons

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS and Martin McGuinness made a stage-managed appearance at Westminster yesterday ensuring maximum publicity for Sinn Fein on the eve of local government elections in Northern Ireland.

The two newly elected Sinn Fein MPs arrived 36 hours before an official ban takes effect. Until then, they are allowed to use the facilities of the Palace and yesterday they were provided with a glimpse of all that would be on offer if they were to swear the Oath of Allegiance to the Queen.

The MPs for Mid Ulster and West Belfast walked through the members lobby, passed the statues of Winston Churchill and Lloyd George and, accompanied by Tony Benn, walked through the empty chamber and passed the dispatch box.

After lunch, the two visited the Commons terrace to sample its unrivalled views of the River Thames. The Sinn Fein MPs paced up and down as they waited for TV cameras to film them from Westminster Bridge but left after more than 20 minutes when they were told the Radio Telefis Eireann crew had been unable to get to the bridge because of building work.

As he left the terrace, Mr Adams said: "It's the most restful period we have had for 25 years."

The MPs held more than two hours of meetings with Peter Jennings, the Sergeant at Arms, and Donald Linton, Clerk of the House, about the restrictions imposed by Miss Boothroyd. Mr Adams said: "We are here in the first place to challenge what we see as a discriminatory measure being taken against people who voted for our party. As far as we are concerned the new restrictions are arrogant, they are anti-democratic."

Mr McGuinness said that the meetings with Commons officials had been "courteous" and "civilised" and that they had been told that the restrictions imposed on them would not interfere with their right to represent their constituents in dealing with the government.

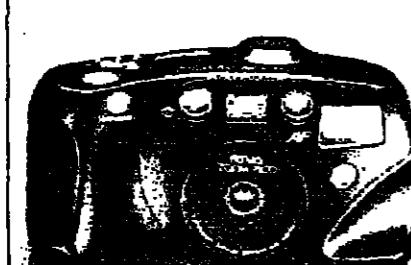
Last night Mo Mowlam, the secretary of state for Northern Ireland, accused the MPs of engaging in a propaganda exercise. She said: "This is propaganda in my mind, it is about media headlines. If they wanted a voice then they would be in the House — they are not, they don't want to be in the House, they just want to get an office and the other bits."

□ Robert Sauls, Grand Master of the Protestant Orange Order, denied yesterday that he had agreed to meet republicans to discuss July's loyalist parade at Drumcree, Co Armagh. He insisted that he would not meet anyone linked to Sinn Fein and the IRA. John Hume, the leader of the SDLP, claimed on Sunday that he had brokered the talks, and said he had cleared his statement with Mr Sauls.

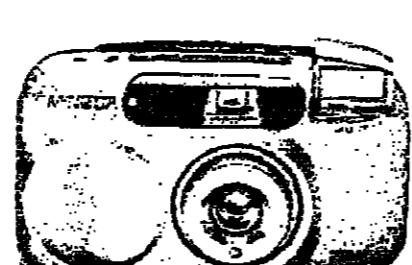
Virgins celebrate

Fifteen consecrated virgins gathered at Plymouth Cathedral to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the revival of the rite, whose followers live in religious orders as nuns. The service for the Roman Catholic lay women aged 21 to 65 included Elizabeth Bailey, 64, who in 1972 became the first consecrated virgin in Britain since the 3rd century.

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Nurses taken to Saudi murder court in shackles

By DANIEL McGROarty

TWO British nurses accused of murdering a colleague appeared in court in Saudi Arabia yesterday manacled at the ankles.

Lucille McLauchlan, 31, and Deborah Parry, 41, shuffled uncomfortably in their iron shackles from a prison van into a side entrance of the court for the start of their trial. Both wore traditional black chadors and were flanked by a dozen armed police officers.

Ms McLauchlan, from Dundee, and Ms Parry, from Alton in Hampshire, looked frightened and confused as they were led before three Sharia judges in the Islamic court at Al Khobar. The only time the women spoke was to plead not guilty to murdering Yvonne Gilford, when the charges were read to them in Arabic and English.

The pressure group, Fair Trials Abroad Trust, said there was no need for "ankle shackles and such harsh and inhuman behaviour". Amnesty described it as a form of ill-treatment.

British diplomats who were allowed to attend yesterday's two-hour hearing at the Eastern District Supreme Court said they did not intend to protest. The women were allowed to speak to William Patey, the British Consul General, who said they had made no complaints about their treatment. Their only anxiety was how long the proceedings might last.

British officials are wary of creating any diplomatic incident with the Saudis, who were sensitive to criticism of their legal system ahead of the trial, which is expected to last until late in the summer.

A diplomatic source said: "The use of ankle restraints is not common just to Saudi Arabia... He pointed to the case of Louise Woodward, the British nanny accused of killing a month-old baby in her care, who was taken to court in Boston in ankle braces."

"This form of restraint is used for all transit prisoners in Saudi Arabia. They were not handcuffed."

Stephen Jacob, of Fair



McLauchlan: accused of killing Gilford, below



Trials Abroad said: "We cannot keep silent as, after all, did not Foreign Secretary Robin Cook say that human rights must now be at the heart of British diplomacy?"

These women were hardly going to escape. It is very unusual to shackle women, not even the Thais do it. I've seldom come across it before, even in harsh Third World countries."

A spokesman for Amnesty said: "Shackling may be a form of ill treatment and it is disturbing to hear that they had been shackled unless there is a legitimate reason for it. But it would be hard to imagine what that might be. We will be watching the case very closely."

"The women could be be-

headed in public if they are convicted of murdering their nursing supervisor, a 35-year-old Australian charge nurse. She was found bludgeoned and stabbed to death in her bedroom at the King Fahd military medical complex.

The nurses have been in prison at Damman for six months after at first confessing to murdering Miss Gilford in what local investigators say was a dispute over a lesbian relationship and borrowed money. Their Saudi lawyer, Salah al-Hajjaj, has told the court that the women have since retracted the confessions, which he said were only made on the promise that they would be freed from custody and deported.

Miss Gilford's body was found in her room on December 11. The authorities maintain the two nurses were later followed to a shopping precinct where one was seen to draw money on Miss Gilford's stolen bank card.

A British diplomat who was in court later telephoned the women's families about the proceedings, which were adjourned until today.

A diplomatic source in Saudi Arabia said last night: "We cannot give the family much more detail as we don't know quite how this trial will progress. We had been told that this first session would last no more than a few hours and then be remanded for a fair while but both women have to return tomorrow."

"We are standing by to help their families in any way and if they wish to go to Saudi Arabia we will do everything we can. Both women are in good health, although they are obviously nervous."

The nurses' lawyer said the preliminary hearing was to cover issues such as power of attorney and to agree the dates for future hearings.

"They will fix a date for the prosecutor to read his report and 'outline' the list of evidence," he said. "We will be getting a copy of that and then we will respond to each piece of evidence. We may need many hearings for that."



The Rev Val Hamer modelling a chasuble designed by Jacqui Binns, depicting Christ harrowing Hell

GILL ALLEN

Clergy glory in heavenly creations

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE Church gave fashion its blessing yesterday when ten clergy showed off vestments created by some of Britain's top clerical wear designers. The first fashion parade for ministers was billed as a showcase for "All things bright and beautiful" in new and traditional albs, stoles and copes.

The Rev Val Hamer modelled that blessing when she raised her hands aloft at a preview while modelling a £350 green chasuble. Mrs Hamer, vicar of St Mildred's at Addiscombe, Surrey, said: "I hope people will see from this that a vestment has meaning. My chasuble depicts Christ harrowing Hell and it is beautiful."

The Rev Mike Starkey, 34, strode down the catwalk in one of the most colourful clerical robes in Creation. Mr Starkey, priest-in-charge of St John's, Finsbury Park, north London, is the brother of the fashion model Helen Starkey.

Mr Starkey lifted his arms revealing the splendour of his cope, named "Genesis", and turned for an elegant exit, marching in time to the Christian rap music of World Wide Message Tribe.

The Rev Andrew Roberts, a Methodist minister from the West Midlands, modelled a black coal-cum-trousers suit, its front lapels glittering with embroidery. From his designer stubble to his media-aware poses, he was the show-stealer, and had designed the suit himself. "Red, orange and yellow are the colours of the Holy Spirit and the blue and green are the colours of baptism," he said.

"The suit has caused a lot of comment when I have worn it for weddings and other services. I feel it says the Church is relevant to the modern world."

The show, which was previewed to the media yesterday, is open to the public today and tomorrow at the Christian Resources Exhibition at Sandown Park, Esher, Surrey.

New look is goal for Delia

By PETER FOSTER

DELIA SMITH, not content with raising standards in the burger bars at Norwich City football club, has begun work on her players' dress sense.

The chef and author, who became a director of the club last year, has commissioned a new football strip from the fashion designer Bruce Oldfield. "All the other kits looked tatty, scruffy and out of date so it was time for a change," Mrs Smith said.

Mr Oldfield, who quietly admits to being a Middleborough fan, designed the strip, by far while working in Barbados.

Drivers en route to shares bonanza on the buses

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

BUS drivers who joined a buyout of their company three years ago are set to take profits of up to £62,000 each from a merger.

Staff at Brighton's Blue Bus network are planning a spending spree on the strength of the £5.7 million deal. One senior manager is believed to be gaining more than £400,000.

More than 200 members of staff bought 10p shares in the management and employee buyout of the company. A rival firm, the Brighton and Hove Bus Company, run by the large Let's Go group, is buying shares at £1.80.

Ray Mills, a driver who big companies take over," said

stands to gain £62,000, said: "Obviously, I am very pleased to have the money but I won't be going mad with it." He plans a holiday in Canada but expects to put most of his profit into investments for his retirement.

Mr Mills bought 20,000 shares, netting him a £34,000 profit. He later took the chance to buy a further £2,000 worth, delivering an additional bonus of some £28,000.

However, he still has some regrets over the demise of the small bus company. "Deregulation of the buses gave the chance for small companies to grow and then we find that the big companies take over," said

Business, pages 29-35

Vice boss jailed with tributes for running the flower of his trade

By DANIEL McGROarty

THE hanging baskets of parishes outside David Baty's home close to Kensington Palace won him a civic award, and only added to his reputation as a nice man, a good neighbour and a kindly boss.

Yesterday a series of tributes over the way he conducted his business were paid at Southwark Crown Court as the flamboyant New Zealander was jailed for 18 months for running a gay brothel 150 yards from the home of Diana, Princess of Wales. The vice squad said it was "probably the happiest male brothel in Britain".

The true nature of his basement business in Palace Gate — amid the luxurious surroundings of embassies and hotels — was discovered after an undercover police operation, though the brothel boasted its own Internet site.

Barry Forward, for the prosecution, agreed that Baty was highly regarded by those who worked for him: "He did all sorts of things for them and helped them with personal problems. They were under no pressure at all. In fact, there were always young men wait-



The brothel was in the basement of this house. Vice police it was probably the "happiest" of its kind

ing to join and they seemed to leave with regret."

Judge Valerie Pearlman was shown letters from contented clients and testimonies from some of the 50 prostitutes, who told how Baty had sent them on "improvement courses".

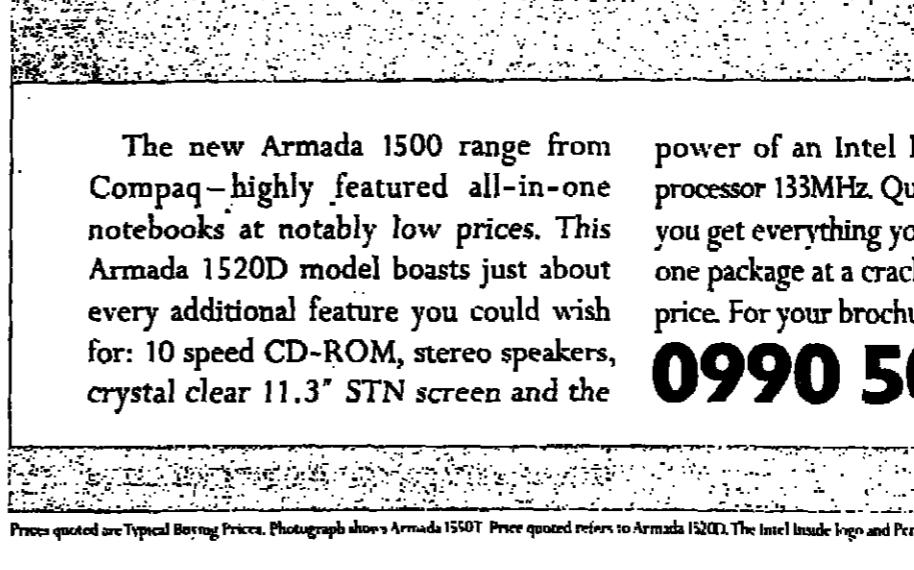
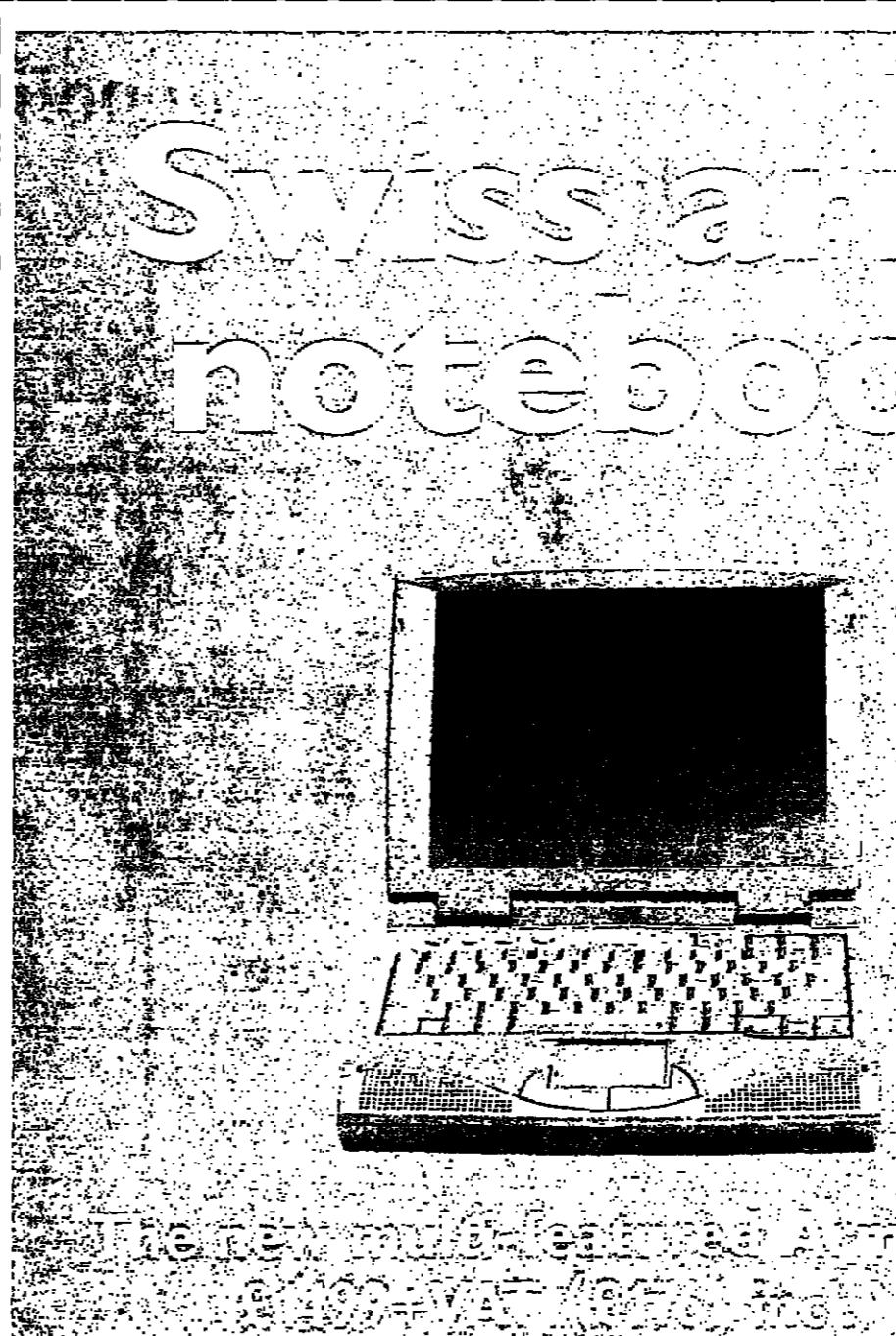
Linda Stradwick, for the defence, said that Baty was "stylishly decorated" premises had "brightened up the area rather than taking away from it". Alcohol was strictly forbidden.

"Even the probation officer described Baty as refreshing, frank and likeable," she told the court. "There was open-

ness and friendliness. He provided his staff with regular health checks. The place was run to a higher standard than a very good hotel."

She said her client, who admitted living off immoral earnings, had even started paying National Insurance and was about to settle a £60,000 tax bill when police raided the premises.

Pleading for a community-service sentence, Ms Stradwick said that Baty, who had since moved out of his £90,000-a-year flat next to the brothel, was hoping to set up a gardening business in Australia.



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KINWELL

A cry from the heart for candour in public life

The most telling point of Ann Widdecombe's devastating speech is likely to be lost in all the drama of the occasion and its impact on Michael Howard's fight for the Tory leadership. Her central plea was for more candour in public life and a greater willingness by ministers to take responsibility.

The Tories suffered heavily during their final years in office from the feeling that ministers were for ever passing the buck — resorting to "semantic prestidigitation" in Miss Widdecombe's evocative, if hardly catchy, phrase about Mr Howard. That was the burden of

the Scott report on the Iraqi arms allegations and a host of similar, smaller affairs. In many cases, ministers had not done anything particularly wrong, but they appeared to be dodging and weaving — often hiding behind their civil servants — to avoid taking direct responsibility.

That cry from the heart, and the soul, about standards in public life is what made Miss Widdecombe's speech so vivid and effective. At times, the thrust was in danger of being submerged by a mass of detail, intelligible only to those who have followed the Derek Lewis affair obsessively. The truth

rests on a balance of interpretation about how busy ministers behaved under pressure. A sense of proportion and perspective can easily be lost; in this case, much rests on fine distinctions between "tell" and "instruct" and the mood of a heated meeting.

But the importance of such affairs is that they offer rare glimpses into the workings of government and into the behaviour of senior ministers.

Mr Howard last night, and his allies earlier, attempted to brush

aside Miss Widdecombe's charges on the grounds that she had said nothing new and that he was merely doing his duty after the Learmont report had shown severe problems in the Prison Service.

But Mr Howard's counter-attack cannot undo the damage done to his leadership campaign. Unfairly or not, his credibility cannot be restored. That is the way with such attacks from your own side, which often have greater repercussions than criticism from the other side of the House. Miss

Widdecombe's speech was reminiscent, on a lesser scale, of Sir Geoffrey Howe's powerful, if more succinct, attack on Lady Thatcher that triggered her downfall in November 1990.

The most interesting face to watch during Miss Widdecombe's speech was not Mr Howard's — his pained and pale expression said it all — but Jack Straw's. The fateful, and much quoted, debate of October 19, 1995, when Mr Howard made his allegedly misleading remarks was also the low point of Mr Straw's period as Home Secretary. As a first step, he announced that future all

because he did not have the evidence to support his attack. Yesterday, at last, he heard that evidence deployed.

Mr Straw and the Government Front Bench obviously enjoyed the reversal of roles. But Miss Widdecombe's speech was also a warning to them not to dodge responsibility.

Earlier, in a solid debut as Home Secretary, Mr Straw promised to take "proper ministerial responsibility" for the Prison Service" while leaving it as an executive agency. As a first step, he announced that future all parliamentary questions about

the service would be answered by ministers and not by the Director-General, who is a civil servant.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the specific charges, Miss Widdecombe's peroration should be read by all ministers. In it she said: "Tough decisions concern a great deal more than instant law and instant dismissals. We demean our high office if we mistreat our public servants. We demean ourselves if we come to this House and indulge in a play of words which may be unsustainable."

PETER RIDDELL

"We left the Prison Service without a leader and we shattered its morale when all was going well"

Widdecombe details her charges against Howard

BY JAMES LANDALE
AND POLLY NEWTON

ANN WIDDECOMBE made a series of allegations yesterday against Michael Howard, the former Home Secretary, in a 40-minute speech to the House of Commons.

Howard's use of Learmont report as pretext to sack prisons chief

The former Home Office minister accused Mr Howard of using the report into several prison escapes as a pretext for sacking Derek Lewis, the then Director General of the Prison Service, in October 1995.

She said there were "serious flaws" in the report, produced by General Sir John Learmont, which should not have escaped Mr Howard. "It is hard to conclude other than that report was his pretext rather than his reason. There is evidence within the Home Office that he had wanted, for a long time before that report was produced, to remove Mr Lewis from his post." She added that the handling of Mr Lewis's dismissal was "deplorable".

Howard told Lewis to suspend prison governor

Miss Widdecombe accused Mr Howard of telling Mr



Parkhurst escapes led Mr Howard to demand suspension of the governor

Lewis that John Marriott, the then Governor of Parkhurst prison, should be suspended after a break out of prisoners. This is a key allegation because it shows Mr Howard apparently interfering in an operational as opposed to a policy matter in the Prison Service. She said Mr Howard had denied this accusation when put to him in the Commons by Tony Blair on October 19, 1995.

Miss Widdecombe said: "In other words, he was categorically denying in this House that he had personally told Mr Lewis that the Governor of Parkhurst should be suspended

ed immediately. On Newsnight on Tuesday May 13 this year, Mr Howard was far less categorical.

"What he said then was, 'I gave him [Mr Lewis] the benefit of my opinion in strong language'. The Newsnight version is the correct one. There is ample documentary evidence that Mr Howard did indeed personally tell Mr Lewis that the Governor of Parkhurst should be suspended."

She added: "In a personal note to me, a very senior civil servant who was present said, 'This was the subject of the worst disagreement. The Home Secretary wanted sus-

pension. Derek Lewis adamantly refused'."

She said that all the documents in the Home Office relating to the affair and all the recollections of civil servants is that Mr Lewis was told to suspend Mr Marriott "and that he was told to take time to reconsider his decision when he refused".

She told the House: "That is a very different picture from the one painted in this House on October 19 when all Mr Howard would admit to was 'wondering whether suspension might be more appropriate'."

Howard tried to overrule Lewis

Miss Widdecombe said that Mr Howard had told the Commons that there was no question of overruling Mr Lewis's decision not to suspend Mr Marriott.

"Oh yes there was. As he bluntly admitted last week and as also evidenced by documentary evidence within the [Home Office], after Mr Lewis had been asked to reconsider his decision, Mr Howard took advice on whether he could instruct Derek Lewis to suspend Marriott ... Mr Howard was advised that he could not instruct him after consultation had taken place with the Cabinet Office and legal advisers within the department.

"It is therefore not true to say that there was no question of overruling the Director General."

Incomplete minutes

Miss Widdecombe said Mr Howard had told MPs that the minutes of the meeting which he placed in the House of Commons library "were the most detailed official account". Miss Widdecombe said: "Those minutes were not a full account. They omit for example the very important fact that Mr Lewis was invited to reconsider his decision."

Howard's refusal to explain what happened

Howard had not only threatened to overrule Mr Lewis but also threatened to sack him. "I can confirm that [Mr Howard] did talk about sacking him that day but not to Mr Lewis himself. Mr Lewis subsequently found out from a third party. It is an indication of the degree of ferocity that existed in that fateful meeting."

Miss Widdecombe said: "Mr Howard has a problem in that his first reaction to attack is denial and refuge in semantic prestidigitation."

She asked why Mr Howard had not come to the Commons and told MPs that he did say Mr Marriott should be suspended, that he "pressured" Mr Lewis to do so, that he told Mr Lewis to reconsider his decision after he refused, and that he considered overruling Mr Lewis. "He could not do so because he had dug a hole for



Derek Lewis. Miss Widdecombe said handling of his sacking was deplorable

himself over policy and operations and he would never have had to dig such a hole had he been prepared to keep the Director General in place."

Miss Widdecombe said Mr Howard had defended his refusal to deny trying to overrule Mr Lewis by saying "he would have checked the record". He also said that civil servants would have checked his account and would have told him that it was wrong.

This, she said, "contains the familiar sound of Mr Howard looking for scapegoats. Can he really not take responsibility himself for what he said?"

Damage and cost of sacking prisons chief

Miss Widdecombe told MPs: "What did we achieve by the sacking of Derek Lewis? We had to pay Mr Lewis £220,000 in compensation. We had to pay his costs in the sum of

£31,000 and our own costs in the sum of £16,000. That unnecessary bill of more than a quarter of a million pounds was the cost to the taxpayer for Mr Howard's decision."

She added that the move "severely damaged" the Government's relations with the private sector over prisons and created a "false distinction between policy and operations which has reverberated around the whole of Whitehall."

"We left the Prison Service without a confirmed leader and we shattered its morale when all had been going well."

She asked if Mr Lewis's sacking eliminated the "disasters" in the Prison Service. "No. Only a few months later, approximately 541 prisoners were released before the end of their sentence. They did not even have to break out."

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Budget

Museums may have to pool resources

BY DALYA ALBERG, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL museums are so strapped for cash that one in Shropshire was forced to display a replica because it could not afford adequate security, Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the National Arts Collections Fund, the country's largest art charity, said last night. Others cannot even afford the train fare to look at potential acquisitions for their collections.

In a lecture delivered at the British Museum Sir Nicholas expressed dismay at the financial problems facing museums. However, he said that it

was "very unlikely that all the problems are due to inadequate funding" and called on every museum director to consider further savings. A pooling of service costs was a possibility, he said, and there might even be amalgamation or transfers of collections from one museum to another.

"Here in the capital, it strikes me that there is room for some rationalisation in the field of works on paper. Can every single museum throughout the country really justify its continuing independent existence?"

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Joyrider jailed for killing BBC man

By MICHAEL HORNELL

A TEENAGE joyrider trying to escape from police in London's theatrical ran down and killed a BBC film editor, a court was told yesterday. Roger Vokes, 33, died after being hit at 60mph.

The driver, Russell Lyon, 19, from Cambridge, was arrested at the scene and admitted causing death by dangerous driving. He was jailed at the Old Bailey for three years and nine months.

His 17-year-old passenger, Steven Lee, also from Cambridge, was convicted of aggravated vehicle-taking and theft and sentenced to 12 months in youth custody. He had previous convictions for burglary and theft.

Lyon had given evidence to the Crown against Lee, in which he said that, together with two other youths, they had stolen the red Vauxhall Astra SRI from a multi-storey car park in central Cambridge in January.

Simon Denison, for the prosecution, said Lyon had driven, to the West End of London with Lee as his passenger. When they realised they had been spotted by police in a van, the pair tried to escape by driving at 60mph along Charing Cross Road.

Mr Vokes, the father of a five-week-old daughter and a son aged three, from Milton Keynes, was hit crossing Tottenham Court Road.

Chelsea uproots the municipal past in favour of back-garden beauty

By ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Chelsea Flower Show is changing. In the great marquee there are none of the ambitious and flamboyant displays beloved of local authorities. No massed ranks of vibrant colours and carpet bedding. Exhibits this year are generally smaller and packed with plants and ideas that should appeal to ordinary gardeners.

The show, which opens to Royal Horticultural Society members today, is also the launch pad for new plants, including roses. David Austin Roses, of Altringham, West Midlands, has launched five of its latest cultivars, including "Geoff Hamilton", with strongly fragrant pink flowers in the old roses style, named after the television gardener who died last year.

To mark its centenary, Nottens Garden Centres, of Woodbridge, Suffolk, has a new rose, "Centenary", a warm pink floribunda that flowers in great profusion.

Delphiniums are a Chelsea perennial, and Blackmore and Langdon, of Pensford, Bristol, exhibitors of many years' standing, has a new cultivar "Pandora" with sky-blue flowers.

Diasias are in vogue and are among the top colour providers for patio containers, flowering from spring to summer. Blooms of Bressingham, Norfolk, is showing what it believes to be the first variegated-leaved cultivar, "Belgrave Beauty". The leaves are deep pink but it is the bright gold and green foliage that causes the effect.

There can be few gardeners bold enough to show just one variety of plant but the Guernsey Clematis Nursery, of St Sampson, Guernsey, has done just that. The new *Clematis "Blue Moon"* is rather special, though. Raised by the nursery owner Raymond Wilson, this large-flowered cultivar is a beautiful shade of lilac blue and flowers in late May and June and again in August and September. The best colour is achieved in shade. Being compact, it is ideal for patios.

Another new climber is shown in the cottage-style front garden created by Roger Harvey Garden World, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire. A vine, *Vitis coignetiae*, "Claret Cloak", growing on the wall of the house, has large, rich coppery purple leaves



John and Norma Major admire a bay tree during a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday

which, in autumn, turn to scarlet and crimson. Dibley's Nurseries, of Ruthin, North Wales, is displaying the popular pot plant, streptocarpus, in which it specialises. Among the latest hybrids, raised on the nursery,

is the vigorous "Rhianon", with white flowers, striped purple in the throat and flushed with mauve on the outside.

Peter J. Smith, of Ashington, West Sussex, grower of asteroemerias or

princess lilies, is launching his new dwarf cultivar, "Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother". It is a superb plant for the conservatory, patio container or garden, with cream flowers flushed with pink and a yellow flare

on the upper petal. In its large display of conifers, Linelunden Nursery, of Bisley Green, Surrey, is showing for the first time a small conifer for patio containers or rock gardens, *Podocarpus "County Park Fire"*. Raised by County Park Nursery, of Hornchurch, Essex, specialist in New Zealand plants, the foliage, when young, is cream-yellow, turns salmon pink, becomes green in summer and purple-bronze in winter.

Another exhibit that relies on foliage only is the display from Rickards Hardy Ferns of Tenbury Wells, Hereford and Worcester. It shows the diversity of form to be found in ferns, among them New Zealand tree ferns such as the silver-backed *Cyathea dealbata*, and the black-stemmed *C. medullaris*. Not totally hardy, they are ideal for a cool conservatory.

Stapley Water Gardens, of Stapley, Cheshire, proves that it is not necessary to have a garden pool to enjoy aquatic plants. It is launching water plants in black plastic pots, which can be placed on a patio or window sill or submerged in a garden pond.

The exhibit from the London Borough of Hackney is a display of plants sold by Loddiges Nursery, based in Hackney between 1771 and 1852 and at the time one of the foremost nurseries in England. The nursery introduced many new plants to Britain and some can be seen in the display, such as the black-stemmed bamboo (*Phyllostachys nigra*), the oak-leaved hydrangea (*H. quercifolia*) and violas. The exhibit is to be reconstructed in Shore Gardens, Hackney, after the show.

Chelsea is particularly strong on overseas horticulture, and exhibitors come from as far afield as Australia, Kings Park and Botanic Garden, of Perth, Western Australia, has staged a display of Western Australian wild flowers, from lush and arid habitats.

The private view for RHS members is today and tomorrow. The show, in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, is open to the public on Thursday from 8am to 8pm and Friday from 8am to 5pm. Admission is by ticket only, bought in advance (no tickets at the gates). The 24-hour show information line is 0171 649 1885.



Flypast for Bentine as Goon is not forgotten

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE Red Arrows appeared in perfect V-formation over London yesterday as they paid tribute to Michael Bentine, erstwhile Goon and the only native Peruvian RAF officer to have been born in Watford.

Fellow former Goons Spike Milligan and Sir Harry Secombe were among celebrities, family and friends at St Paul's Church in Covent Garden for a memorial service. Sir Harry said of the *It's a Square World* creator: "Michael invented an absurd world where anything was possible. Now he is up there somewhere, he may have been put in charge of the weather. If we have a heatwave at Christmas, we will know who is responsible."

The broadcaster Raymond Baxter said that Bentine showed an affection for the RAF that the service had signally failed to reciprocate, first refusing him recruitment because of his Peruvian nationality, then having him arrested as a deserter while he was pursuing his alternative bent as an actor.

Bentine stayed on as an intelligence officer, "revelling in the fact that airmen ritually dropped their chemical toilet as a final parting shot on their target", and became a champion of the RAF Benevolent Fund.

Service, page 24

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Industry faces water curbs to help the environment

By NICK NUTTALL

WATER companies, industry and farmers face curbs and higher charges on water pumped from rivers, lakes and underground boreholes under proposals outlined yesterday by John Prescott.

Speaking at a water summit in London, the Deputy Prime Minister signalled that the economics of the water industry must now take account of the environmental damage to wildlife and wetland areas caused by over-abstraction. He said that many of the thousands of

licences which allow companies to pump water from the countryside were out of date, and the Department of the Environment was launching a review.

"This review will examine ways in which environmentally damaging abstractions, which often date from the issue of licences of right in the very different circumstances of the 1960s, can be equitably curtailed," said Mr Prescott. Michael Meacher, the Environment Minister, said the review would also include arrangements for revoking licences in areas where pumping

was causing significant environmental damage. The system needed to better protect wildlife and areas where water was used for leisure and "quiet enjoyment".

The summit, attended by representatives from green groups, the water industry, consumer groups and the Environment Agency, was called after three years of drought.

Mr Prescott announced five years of mandatory targets to reduce leaks from water supplies, which would be reviewed annually. The targets are to be set shortly by the regulator, the Office of Water

Services (Ofwat). He said: "Leakage of water from pipes is too high. An average of nearly 30 per cent of the water leaks away before customers can use it."

"People are rightly outraged when their supply is restricted but know millions of gallons of treated water are being allowed to leak away. But on top of that, water lost through leakage means higher abstractions and an ever greater strain on the water environment."

Ian Batt, the water regulator, said that failure to meet the targets would carry penalties, and could lead to water companies being put into the hands of an administrator from Ofwat.

Other announcements, some of which were foreshadowed in *The Times* yesterday, include a demand that companies offer free leak repairs for domestic customers, and water audits of homes. The Government will be looking at ways to tighten regulations so that appliances such as dishwashers, washing machines and showers use less water. Mr Prescott also promised a review of the way charges were levied for water.

The summit signalled a weakening of Labour's opposition to water metering as a means of curbing demand. Mr Meacher said the Government supported selective metering of homes with big gardens and swimming pools, but remained opposed to compulsory metering, with concerns over the impacts in low-income and large family households, and where medical conditions required larger than usual amounts of water.

Mr Meacher said they were also keen to see improved compensation for customers whose supplies were disrupted because of drought and also in cases where, because of contamination, houses were forced to boil water.

The Government stopped short of backing a Water Saving Trust funded by a levy on companies' profits. But ministers want companies to report back in three weeks on how they might use the Environmental Task Force for promoting water efficiency schemes, such as the installation of plastic containers in cisterns to reduce the flush capacity of a



Firemen inspecting damage on the Bath roofline

Nurses cheer as Dobson dashes their pay hopes

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT



Dobson: promised to dismantle Tory reforms

FRANK DOBSON told nurses yesterday that they could not expect a large pay rise in the foreseeable future — and was cheered loudly by them as he did so.

"Times are difficult and settlements will be tight," the Health Secretary told the Royal College of Nursing annual conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire. "You know as well as I do that we have to live within our means."

He succeeded in putting his bleak message across by wrapping it in a speech which had the 1,500 delegates cheering and clapping as he attacked the health service reforms introduced by the Conservatives and promised to dismantle them as quickly as possible.

The treasured health service principles of fairness, quality and equality had been breached by the outgoing government, he said. "The changes we introduced have created a two-tier system. That system is unfair to patients, it is repugnant to those of you who are forced to become involved in the unfairness.

Militant is poised to lead Whitehall union

By VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

THE hard Left is expected to win control today of a main Whitehall union. John Macreadie, a militant supporter, is predicted to take over the leadership of the 125,000-member Civil and Public Service Association.

Mr Macreadie, 50, says in his election address: "As new Labour has abandoned its socialist principles, I will not be renewing my membership. I am joining the Socialist Party."

The association is expected

to merge in the new year with the 152,000-strong Public Services, Tax and Commerce Union (PTC), creating a Whitehall super-union, including many middle-managers among its members.

The PTC's general secretary is likely to retire shortly after the merger. If Mr Macreadie wins today, new Labour supporters in the PTC will try to prevent him leading the merged body.

Clive Brooke, a moderate and joint PTC general secretary who was due to step down before the merger, may be persuaded to stay.

when he referred to 18 years of Tory government.

His promises were nevertheless cautious. Although the internal market was hated, there was to be no quick end to it, and he told the nurses that they, rather than "overpaid management consultants", would have their part to play in working out the future. Systems for change would be tried and tested on a small scale.

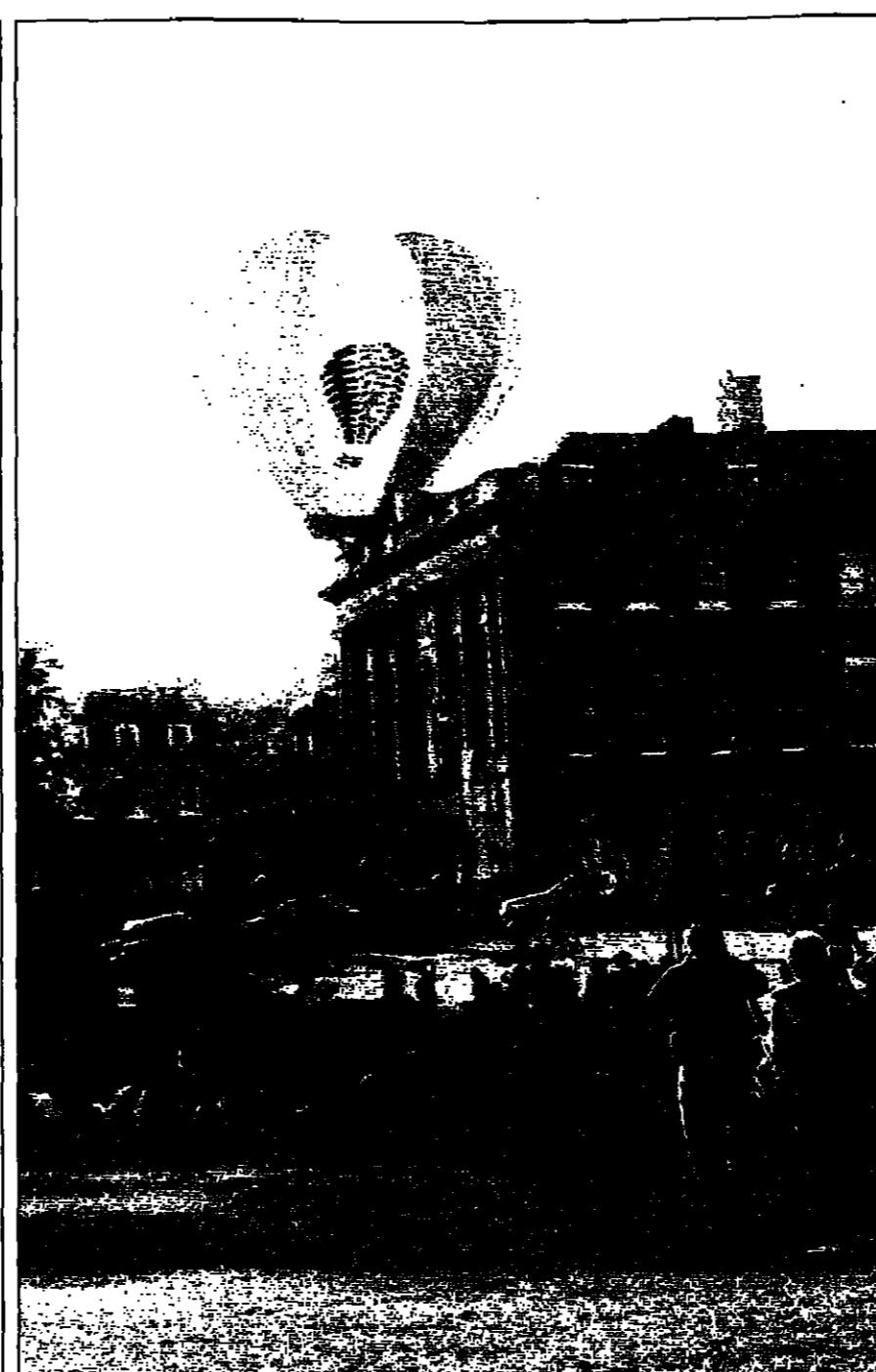
He accepted that pay and conditions needed to be high enough to attract high-calibre recruits and keep trained nurses. "When it costs £35,000 to train a nurse we can't really afford to have 140,000 qualified nurses not working in the profession." But nobody went into nursing to make a fortune, Mr Dobson said. He was going to introduce a revised system for national pay negotiations with local flexibility, but money would be tight.

As one step to improve working conditions, he was working on new guidelines to reduce the number of assaults on staff working in hospitals. "Nurses, doctors and other NHS staff go to work to earn a living. You are not paid to be the targets of violence. If you were, you'd be in the boxing ring. I am determined to stamp out loutish behaviour that puts you at risk."

There would also be "family-friendly working arrangements to make it possible for trained nurses to return to the profession after becoming parents. He would back moves to give nurses greater professional responsibilities.

Christine Hancock, the general secretary, said afterwards that the conference had given Mr Dobson the warmest reception for a Health Secretary she could remember.

The nurses' latest 3.3 per cent pay award was implemented at the beginning of last month and negotiations on the next one will start early next year.



The balloon tangled with chimneys before the crew freed it and sailed on

CORRECTION

A report, "High-tech angling banned as too fishy" (May 8), wrongly suggested that Mr Roger Mortimer was covertly using an echo-sounder in a fishing competition. In fact, he used the device quite openly, to the knowledge of other competitors, and for only a short period of time. It did not assist him with his catch.

Codebreakers' transcripts confirm that Churchill had early evidence of the Holocaust

Nazi police competed over execution 'score'

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

GERMAN military police commanders competed to score the highest number of executions in "cleansing operations" as Hitler's armies advanced across Russia in 1941, according to secret radio messages intercepted by British codebreakers.

Regular reports sent to the headquarters of the Ordnungspolizei (Orpo) listed mass executions of Jews and partisans in Russia and Ukraine, according to the files of German police traffic from 1939 to 1945. The messages, decoded by the mathematicians at the Government Code and Cypher School at Bletchley Park, were released yesterday by the Public Record Office in Kew.

The element of competition between Orpo sector chiefs is clear from a message dated August 7, 1941. After a battle it was reported that the population of Pazyk had opened fire from their houses as the German units returned.

The decoded message from a police chief read: "I ordered the entire male population of the place to be evacuated ... up to today, midday, a further 3,600 have been executed, so that the total of executions carried out by the Kent Brigade up to now amounts to 7,819. Thus the figure of executions in my area now exceeds the



Himmler: may have authorised killings

30,000 mark." The assessment made by the intelligence analysts at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, concluded: "The tone of this message suggests that the word has gone out that a definite decrease in the total population of Russia would be welcomed in high quarters and that the leaders of the three sectors stand somewhat in competition with each other as to their 'scores'."

Files marked HW16 contain remarkable evidence of German war crimes against the Jews, particularly in the extermination and concentration camps such as Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Dachau, as well as on the Russian Front.

A Bletchley Park report of September 12, 1941 stated that the killing of Jews on the Russian Front by the SS provided evidence of "a policy of savage intimidation, not ultimate extermination". The intercepted messages confirm that Churchill knew in the early stages of the war that Hitler had embarked on a campaign of massacring Jews.

The information came to the British leader after the successful breaking of the German Enigma code. The material thus produced was the greatest secret of the war and Churchill did not dare reveal anything that might compromise the breakthrough.

Intercepts of the Northern sector of the German police in Russia, whose role was to "clean up" after the German Army had swept through, show the frequency with which higher officials conferred. The impression given was of a "higher direction" authorising all mass executions, focusing on three key figures — Himmler, head of the SS, General Kurt Daluege, chief of the Orpo in Berlin and another senior commander called Prützmann.

The decoded telegraph traffic referred to "special duties" and there were warnings to the participants of the secret killing missions to "hold their tongues". The language of the radio messages changed when General Daluege became

alarmed that "the unspeakable activities of his police in Russia", might be intercepted by enemy codebreakers.

Figures of executions were compiled under a new heading — *Aktion nach Kriegsbrauch* (action according to the usage of war).

However, "a slip" on the part of the higher SS and

The situation-reports of the 5th and 6th were unfortunately not taken, but we have an interesting addendum to the letter sent on the 7th. (24.7.8.41 R). This reports an important engagement between Pol.batl.316 and Russian forces 1800 strong under the leadership of a General. The outcome is missed (part unbroken), but the message concludes thus: "since the population of Russia would be welcomed in high quarters and that the leaders of the three sectors stand somewhat in competition with each other as to their "scores".

The following day Pol.batl.316 reported:

A Bletchley report tells of executions by German police who killed thousands of Russian civilians in the wake of the Wehrmacht's advance.



police leader in the south in a situation report made it clear to the codebreakers that this was a euphemism for killings. The message from the police chief said: "Police Regiment South: action according to the usage of war — successes, Police Regiment South liquidated 1,548 Jews."

The complexities of decoding the keys meant that the number of executions was probably double that recorded by Bletchley Park. Although it was not only the Jews facing the death squads, the messages all referred in general terms to the execution of "Jews". One Bletchley Park document says: "The fact that in a file marked HW16-7, the

invariably produces the biggest figure shows that this is the ground for killing most acceptable to the Higher Authorities."

One file contains no writing, just page after page, of columns of figures representing concentration camp prisoners and numbers of deaths. In a file marked HW16-7, the

codebreakers reveal that on July 23, 1942 orders were sent out to chief police officers in certain areas of Russia to "reconnoitre suitable buildings for a decontamination station and a gas examination station".

Eastern Front photographs from The Russian Century by Brian Moynahan.

Poodle's day out costs £1,000

A Frenchman has been fined £1,000 after bringing his pet poodle on a day trip to Britain. Yan Provost, 26, was detained by police after the dog was seen sitting in his French-registered van at a service station on the M25.

Provost, a van driver from Laval, near Paris, who was making deliveries of car spares, told police he was not aware of the law against bringing dogs into the country. The poodle had not been inoculated against rabies. Provost appeared before magistrates at Redhill, Surrey.

Bullimore sails

Tony Bullimore, who spent four days in the upturned hull of his yacht during the Vendee solo round-the-world race, is to compete in the Round Europe race. The Birmingham businessman and a crew of five leave Cherbourg on June 1.

£50 kickabout

Peter Naylor, 19, an office clerk, who was practising football skills in Kirkham, Lancashire, was fined £20 with £30 costs under the Highways Act 1980 after he admitted playing a game on the street. His ball bounced into the road.

Mountain airlift

A British soldier was rescued by helicopter after falling 40ft while climbing Mount Kinchinjunga in Nepal. Roderick McArthur, from Londonderry, was part of a 15-strong team climbing the 28,170ft peak. He was treated for minor injuries.

Terriers surface

Two Lakeland terriers which disappeared down a farm drainage pipe at Berkeley, Gloucestershire, have been rescued after being trapped underground for three days. They were found six feet down by farm workers using a digger.

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Quick-thinking computer tackles secret of universe

By JOHN SHAW

A SUPER computer at Cambridge University could finally unravel the secrets of the universe, from its creation to the present day. The £2 million *Cosmos*, which was unveiled yesterday, will test scientific theories against practical observations.

Professor Stephen Hawking, principle investigator of the consortium that brought the computer to Cambridge, said: "The calculations involved are so enormous that they require state-of-the-art machinery."

Cosmos thinks 100 times faster than the latest Pentium Pro personal computer and has 32 high performance R10000 processors and 8,000 megabytes of main memory. It is the largest Origin2000 computer in Britain. Although it is based at the university, it is owned and run by the UK Computational Cosmology Consortium.

The interdisciplinary team working with the machine includes particle cosmologists and astrophysicists. Its members come from Cardiff, Durham, Oxford, Sussex and London Universities, Imperial College and the Royal Observatory, Edinburgh.

"The interdisciplinary nature of this team is one of the great strengths of this work," said Professor Alex Broers,



Hawking: the team's principal investigator.

vice-chancellor of the university, at the launch ceremony.

Dr Paul Shellard, director of the new facility, said: "Our mission is to push back our understanding of the first fractions of a second after the Big Bang, to unravel the enigmas and mysteries."

In recent years interest in cosmology has exploded, driven in part by novel theoretical ideas connecting the formation of galaxies in our universe with fundamental high-energy theory and relativity.

Many of these ideas about the early universe were first proposed in this country and on *Cosmos*; their mathematical models can now be realised and directly compared with a

rapidly growing body of observational data about the universe. We can get results in days instead of waiting months or even years."

Professor Hawking, whose book *A Brief History of Time* has sold eight million copies, initiated the partnership that brought the computer to Cambridge during a visit to the headquarters of Silicon Graphics, which created the machine, at the company's headquarters in California.

Money for *Cosmos* came from a variety of sources, including the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council. Britain is a world leader in cosmology and members of the consortium said the super computer would help to maintain that advantage into the next century.

At present there are two theories about the growth of the universe: the inflation theory of rapid expansion after the Big Bang and the deflation theory that the universe evolved in a phased transition, producing defects at certain points in its development.

Professor Hawking told a lecture later: "My money is on inflation, but we shall have to wait and see. It is such an elegant solution I am sure God would have chosen it."

The deflation theory has been developed by Professor Neil



Cosmos will compare theories with observations such as these images captured by the Hubble Space Telescope

Turok, a colleague at Cambridge. But he said the simplest version of this explanation was incompatible with initial data produced by the computer based on satellite and telescopic observations.

However, he said: "I am still encouraged, because it is

progress even if this is ruled out. There are variations on these theories so it's really a mixed picture at the moment."

He said the findings would be reported at conferences in the next two months and would also be published in the specialist magazine *Physical*

Review. He said technical advances and the flow of information "have made us convinced we are on the verge of a golden age in cosmology."

"We want to crack the code of the universe," he said. "We want to be the Watson and Crick of cosmology." James D

Watson and Francis Crick were two young scientists who solved the riddle of DNA while working at Cambridge in 1953. Their laboratory was half a mile from the Department of Applied Mathematics and Theoretical Physics that houses *Cosmos*.

Record rise in vegetarianism gives meat trade food for thought

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

A RECORD three million Britons are now vegetarian; an increase of 20 per cent over the past two years, it was claimed yesterday. For the first time, the trend has risen faster among men than women.

The figures, from a Gallup poll, appear to scotch hopes that the meat industry is recovering from the public concern over BSE. Graham Keen, sales and marketing director

of the vegetarian supplier Realeat, part of the Haldane Foods Group which commissioned the poll, said: "The survey was done in March, a year after the latest scare over BSE started. It has been argued by some that things were getting back to normal for the meat industry. These figures show that is not the case and that record numbers of people are consciously making permanent changes to their lifestyle."

The poll suggests that more than 5,000 people have been turning to

vegetarianism each week over the two years. A record 5.4 per cent of the adult population say they no longer eat any kind of meat or fish. The total includes 1,114,000 men — an increase of 37 per cent — and 1,910,000 women, up by 12 per cent. There are an estimated 224,000 vegans, who additionally eschew milk, eggs and other animal-derived products.

Another eight million people — a record 14.3 per cent of the population — are avoiding "red" meats,

such as beef and lamb, while still eating fish and poultry. This is an increase of 21 per cent on the last survey, conducted in 1995.

The number of people citing BSE or "mad cow disease" as a reason for eating less meat rose from 7 per cent in 1995 to 22 per cent. However, 24 per cent gave taste as their main reason for cutting back. Eight per cent cited moral grounds.

Scottish men remain the biggest meat-eaters, with only 1.6 per cent succumbing to vegetarianism. The

poll, in line with previous surveys, shows the most affluent socio-economic groups are leading the anti-meat trend and are also the most concerned about the health aspects of diet.

Chris Dessent, of the Vegetarian Society, said: "This is fantastic news and shows that people have been switching to vegetarianism even faster than we thought or hoped."

Gallup interviewed 4,200 people over the age of 16 throughout Britain for the survey, conducted between March 5 and March 18 this year.

missed the extent of the findings. A spokesman said: "The Realeat company comes up with similar findings every year."

"Our own surveys show that consumption of all types of meat has remained steady at between 63 and 64 kilograms a head a year for the past 30 years."

Gallup interviewed 4,200 people over the age of 16 throughout Britain for the survey, conducted between March 5 and March 18 this year.

Passenger sues over bus that failed to turn up

By PAUL WILKINSON

A PROFESSOR is suing a public transport authority because his bus failed to turn up. He wants his £2.80 taxi fare and £10 court costs.

Robert Stanton, 77, a semi-retired botany professor, formerly at the University of Malaya, waited for the minibus last March after a visit to the Haworth parsonage in West Yorkshire. He says that he stood for more than two hours without seeing the bus scheduled to take him to his home village of Stanbury, a mile down the road. The temporary shuttle had been introduced while a bridge was closed for repairs.

Dr Stanton, who helped to pioneer the development of Quorn, the soya substitute for meat, said that the link service was not reliable. He is suing West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive, which has overall responsibility for transport in the region. "The bus times are a shambles. They don't know how to work a transport system," he said.

The transport executive is defending the action, saying it is not responsible for Calder Coaches, which runs the minibus. It successfully applied to have the case transferred from Keighley County Court to Leeds for yesterday's hearing, despite Dr Stanton's request that it should be heard at Keighley for his convenience.

He claimed that he arrived at Leeds yesterday to be told that the case would be adjourned until Thursday because the transport authority's solicitor was going to the Chelsea Flower Show. A spokesman for the executive said: "Proceedings are still active and so we cannot comment on this matter."

Dr Stanton, who is an expert on agriculture, horticulture and microbiogenetics, is working on a project to produce starch from sago palm suitable for making bread and spaghetti.

Leading article, page 23

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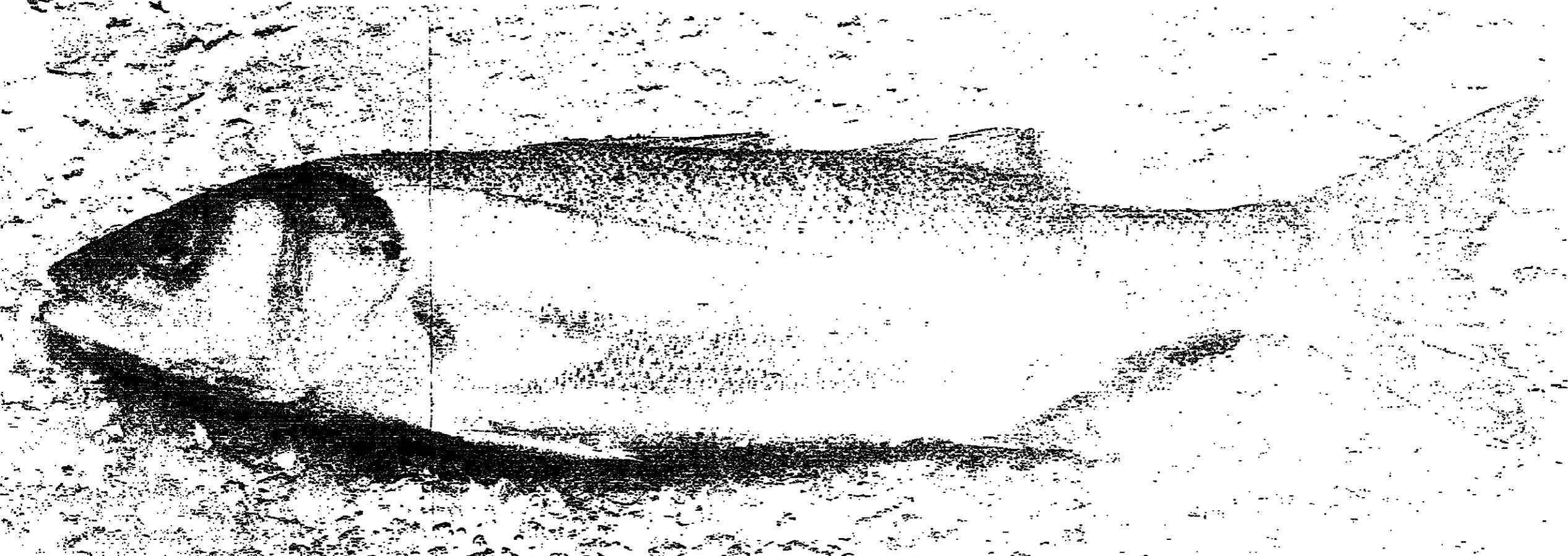
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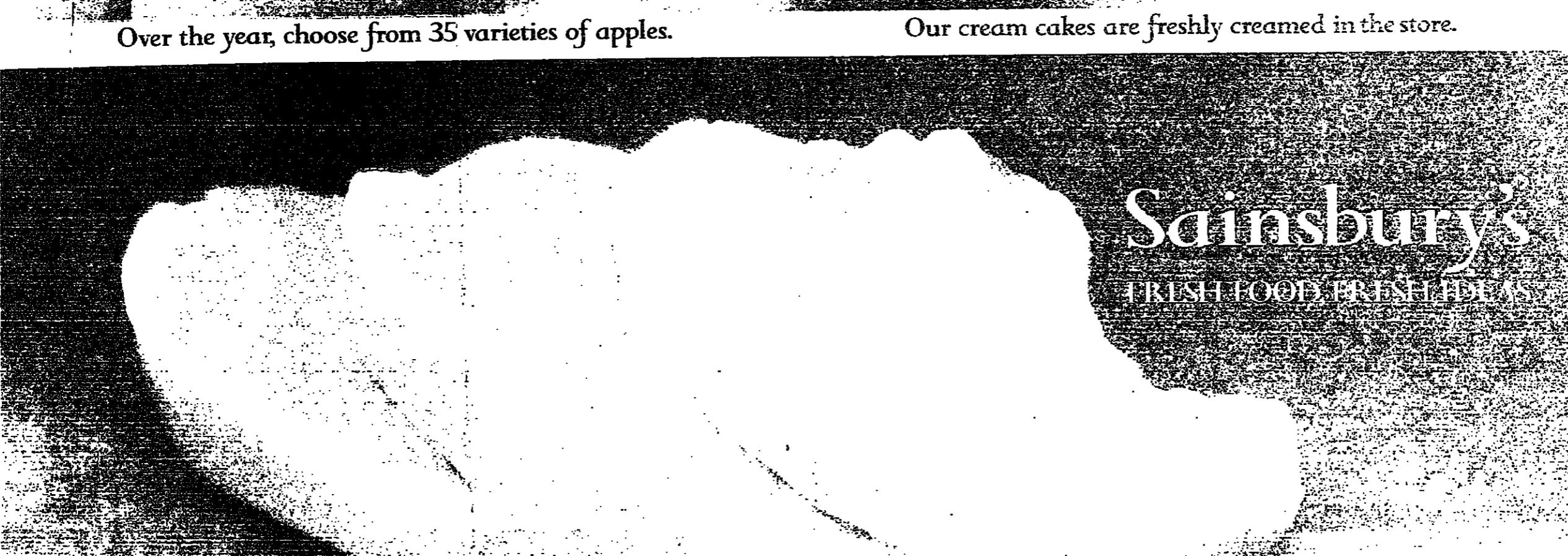
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Sarwar sues paper over election bribery claims

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

MUHAMMED SARWAR, Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, issued a libel writ yesterday against the *News of the World*, which published claims that he paid a £5,000 bribe to a rival general election candidate.

The newspaper said that it was standing by its story, which alleged that Islam Badar, an independent candidate, was paid not just a losing campaign to avoid splitting the Labour vote. Mr Badar was thought to be abroad yesterday.

A report into the affair is being prepared for consideration tomorrow by the Labour Party's National Executive Committee. The NEC will set up an inquiry into whether Mr Sarwar has broken Labour rules, including a new one against bringing the party into disrepute.

Mr Sarwar denies any wrongdoing and says that the police inquiry into the claims

against him will not interfere with his duties as an MP.

Yesterday as the *News of the World* passed to the fraud squad tape recordings and the £5,000 allegedly used for the bribe, further allegations were made. Jamil Abbasi, the independent Conservative candidate for Glasgow Govan, said he had been offered £50,000 not to stand by men he says were supporters of Mr Sarwar. "I refused the offer. I am a man of dignity and principle."

He said he was sure that Mr Sarwar was not personally involved, and that he knew the men but was afraid to identify them.

Peter Paton, an independent Labour candidate who has long been an opponent of Mr Sarwar, claimed he had also been approached by an intermediary acting for a key Sarwar supporter who wanted to donate a four-figure sum to his campaign, which he

said could have been used to compromise him. Mr Paton, who has made many accusations against Mr Sarwar in the past and has reported alleged electoral malpractice to police, said the approach was made in March. He had not told the police about it until now because he wanted to protect his source.

Yesterday Mr Sarwar said: "I have just had a meeting with my solicitors and I have instructed them to issue a writ concerning the story they published on Sunday and the totally false allegations that went with it."

The Secretary of State for Scotland, as you are aware, asked the procurator fiscal to request that police investigate the matter. I requested that such an investigation be instigated and I welcome the move. It would be wrong of me to make any further statements until the

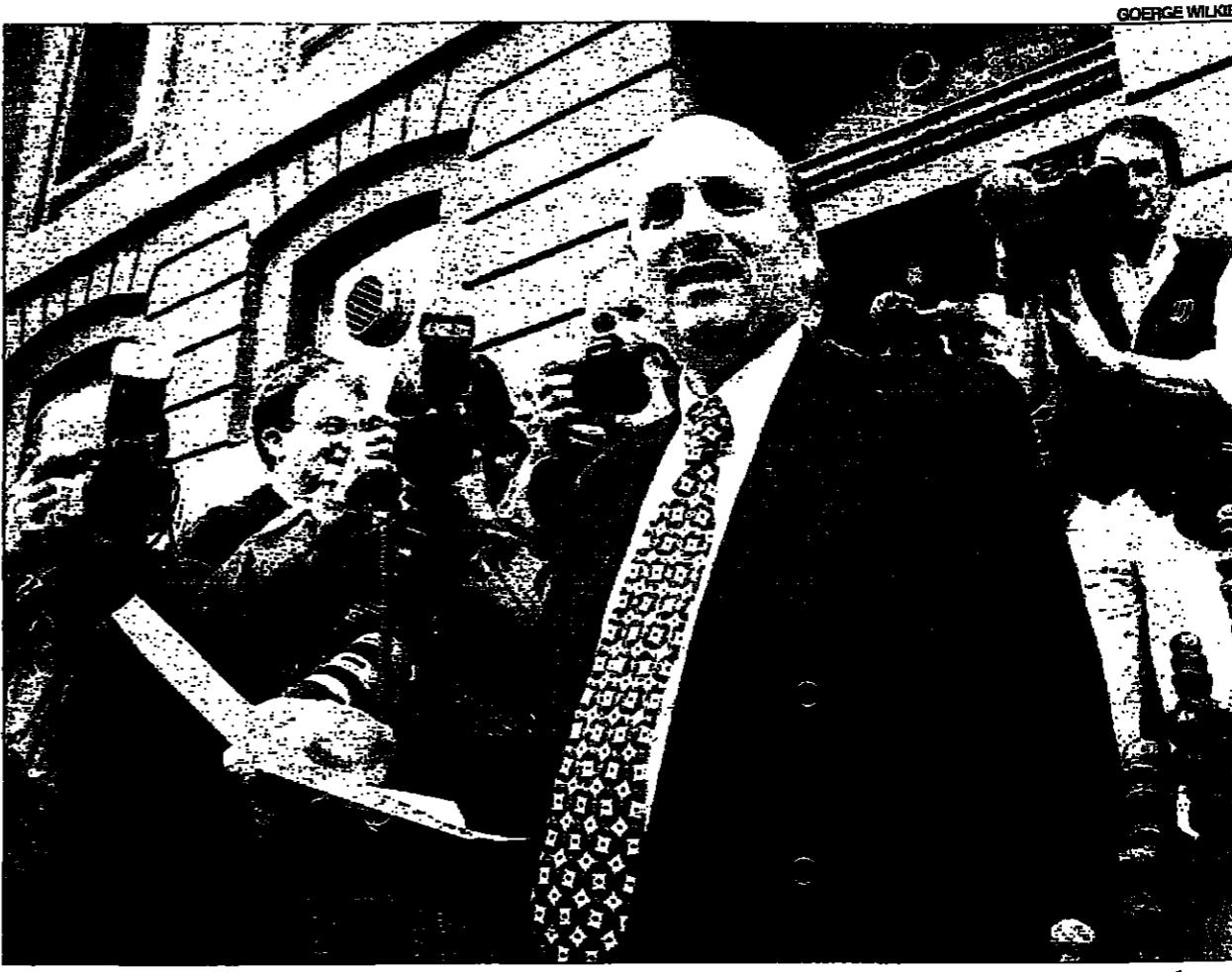
police investigation is completed."

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said investigations into the bribery allegations had been requested by the Lord Advocate via the regional procurator fiscal for Glasgow and had now begun.

George Galloway, Labour MP for Glasgow Hillhead and a friend of Mr Sarwar, said he was sure the investigation would clear the MP's name.

He said: "No one can ever be completely convinced of what their friends tell them but I have known Mohammed Sarwar a long time and I have to say that what he told me yesterday and how he explained the situation had the ring of truth."

"It struck me as inherently implausible that a man like Mohammed Sarwar would go along and hand out thousands of pounds to not canvass hard."



Mohammed Sarwar announcing his libel case to reporters outside his solicitor's office in Glasgow yesterday

Hostilities flare again in Govan's political dirty war

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

THERE is only one thing on which the ten candidates who stood for Glasgow Govan at the general election can agree — that the police inquiry into allegations of vote-rigging and bribery should be swiftly completed.

But given the long and bitter history of political infighting in the constituency, their hopes are unlikely to be met.

Govan, once famed for shipbuilding, now better known for the winged-west philosopher Rab C Nesbit, has been a Labour stronghold for decades. It also has the highest ethnic population of any of the Glasgow seats, at about 11 per cent, 9.6 per cent of whom are Asians from Pakistan.

Mohammed Sarwar won the seat at the election to become Britain's first Muslim MP with 14,216 votes, a majority of 2,914 over the Scottish Nationalists. The Tories polled 2,839 and the Liberal Democrats 1,915. The six other candidates polled less than 2,000 votes between them.

The seeds of the current dispute were sown in 1995 when the boundary commission abolished the Glasgow Central seat. The sitting MP, Mike Watson, decided to apply for the vacant nomination of Govan. He was challenged by two other candidates, Margaret Curran, a college lecturer, and Mohammed Sarwar. Mr Sarwar, 44, is a successful businessman and former Labour councillor for Pollokshields, the well-heeled part of the constituency. The fight between Mr Watson and Mr Sarwar for the nomination was bitter.



Paton denies vendetta against Mr Sarwar



Abbasi denies vendetta against Mr Sarwar

candidate, Mr Paton, 43, describes himself as a member of the Labour Party for 24 years. But his party membership is lapsed; in the election he polled 325 votes. It was he who originally made the allegations of electoral malpractice to police some weeks ago. He is a vociferous opponent of Mr Sarwar but denies waging a vendetta against him.

Supporters of Mr Sarwar claim that Mr Paton has waged a dirty tricks campaign against him. They point to Mr Paton's involvement with Abdul Haq, 60, who was alleged to have tried to force his daughter into marriage with their cousins in Pakistan in 1996.

Mr Sarwar led a high-profile visit to Pakistan to rescue the girls. The girls and their mother later publicly expressed their gratitude to Mr Sarwar. Mr Haq is suing Mr Sarwar for £2 million, alleging he split up the family. Mr Paton has acted as Mr Haq's press spokesman.

There are also concerns within the Sarwar camp of links between Mr Paton and Jamil Abbasi, who stood as an independent Conservative candidate in the election polling 22 votes. Campaign literature sent by both candidates came from the same fax in Mr Paton's home.

But it is a third independent candidate, Islam Badar, who is at the centre of the current allegations. A professional cricketer for Clydeside in the 1970s, Mr Badar became a businessman in the early 1980s but a string of business ventures failed. He polled only 319 votes at the election.

Last week, Mr Sarwar told

the *Scotland on Sunday* newspaper that he would prove definitively that there was a dirty tricks campaign against him. He said Mr Badar would testify that another candidate, allegedly Mr Paton, was behind a smear campaign.

The newspaper insisted on sworn affidavits and while Mr Badar testified on tape that there had been a smear cam-

paign, he allegedly became extremely nervous about the affidavit, refusing to sign.

He later told the *News of the World* that Mr Sarwar gave him £5,000 last week. He claims he subsequently met Mr Sarwar and taped an incriminating conversation with him.

Mr Sarwar has denied the

claims and is taking legal action. The *News of the World* says it has the tapes and is sticking by its story.

There is evidence of electoral malpractice in Govan. The police began an investigation some weeks ago after it was disclosed that "ghost" voters had been registered on the electoral role and some voters discovered that their votes had

been cast for them without their permission. There were also allegations of intimidation.

But Mr Sarwar says that from the start he instructed his team to fight the election with "honesty and credibility".

Mr Sarwar's dirty tricks claims were given some credibility during the election campaign when a mysterious man

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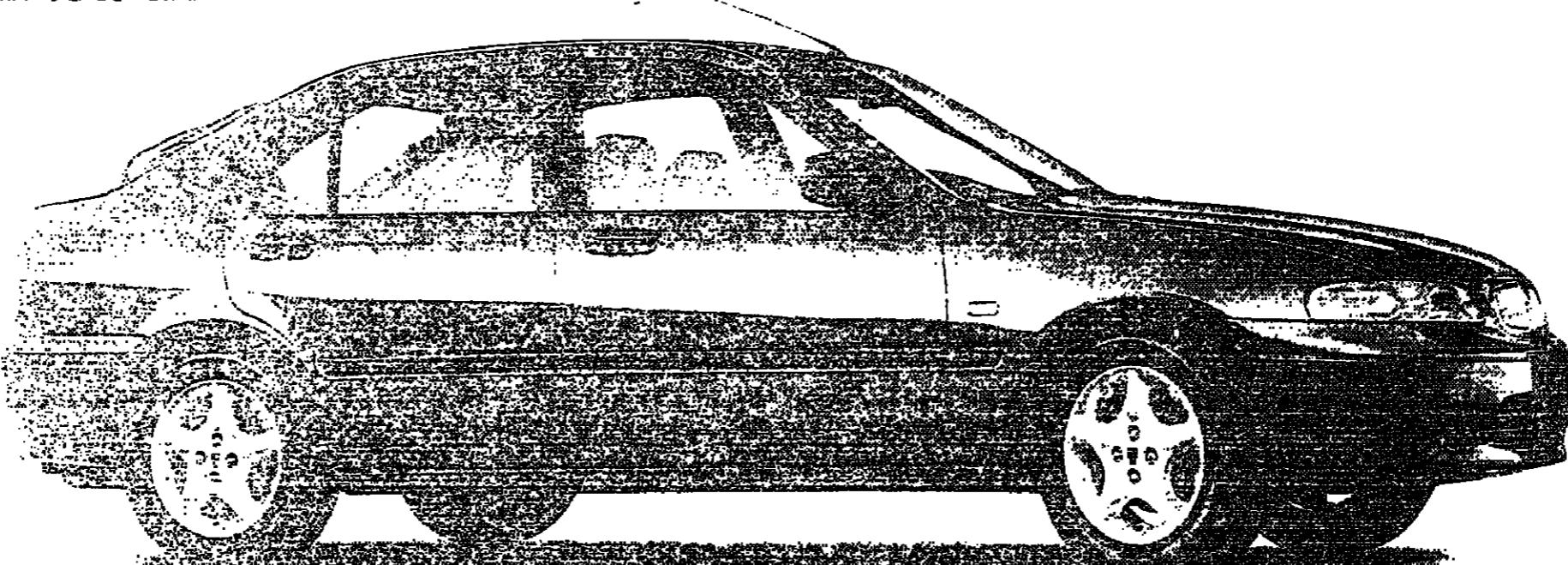
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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 20 1997

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Giant turbines in area of natural beauty would 'damage case for crucial source of renewable energy'



The gigantic turbines, made in Germany, are already operating abroad, but would be the first of their size in Britain. Each stands 295ft tall at the blade tip — half as high again as the tallest in this country

Green energy campaigners see red over wind farm

By MICHAEL HORNSEY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

THE biggest wind farm in Europe, with 40 turbines half as high again as Nelson's Column, is planned for one of Britain's last great stretches of wild landscape.

Rookhope Common, in County Durham, is an area of North Pennine moorland designated as being of outstanding natural beauty, and the proposal by National Wind Power has outraged conservationists.

Five leading countryside groups have joined forces to call for tougher controls on the location of wind-energy plants. "Wind turbines now intrude into some of the most unspoilt landscapes in Britain and the damage is set to continue unless there are real changes to the way in which the industry is financed and regulated," they say, in a statement issued today.

The signatories are: the Ramblers' Association, the Council for National Parks, and the Council for the Protection of Rural England, together with its two sister bodies in Scotland and Wales. They have also written to Margaret Beckett, the President of the Board of Trade. It was the Department of Trade and Industry, over which Mrs Beckett now presides, which awarded contracts earlier this year to National Wind Power to sell electricity generated by the proposed Rookhope plant.

The farm would be the first major intrusion of wind turbines into a protected land-

scape. Conservationists say that the proposal underlines the growing threat to scenic countryside by a technology that will never make more than a tiny contribution to the production of cleaner energy.

Even the keenest proponents of wind energy are appalled. Jonathon Porritt, former director of Friends of the Earth, has written to local people saying the Rookhope scheme would be seriously "damaging to the overall case for this crucial source of renewable energy".

National Wind Power is proposing to build two clusters of turbines at Rookhope, siting 15 on one ridge and 25 on another, less than a mile to the north. Each machine would be capable of generating 1.5 megawatts (mw), a total capacity of up to 60 mw.

Each turbine would consist of a tubular tower 197ft high carrying a rotor with three blades up to 98ft long, making a total height from base to blade tip of 295ft. This would be half as high again as the biggest, 600 kilowatt (kw), machines now operating in Britain.

Martin Marais, development manager for the project, said: "It is a fantastic site, very high and exposed with winds averaging up to 10 metres per second. We have looked at other sites, but they are not viable because of insufficient wind speed."

The company is expected to submit a formal planning

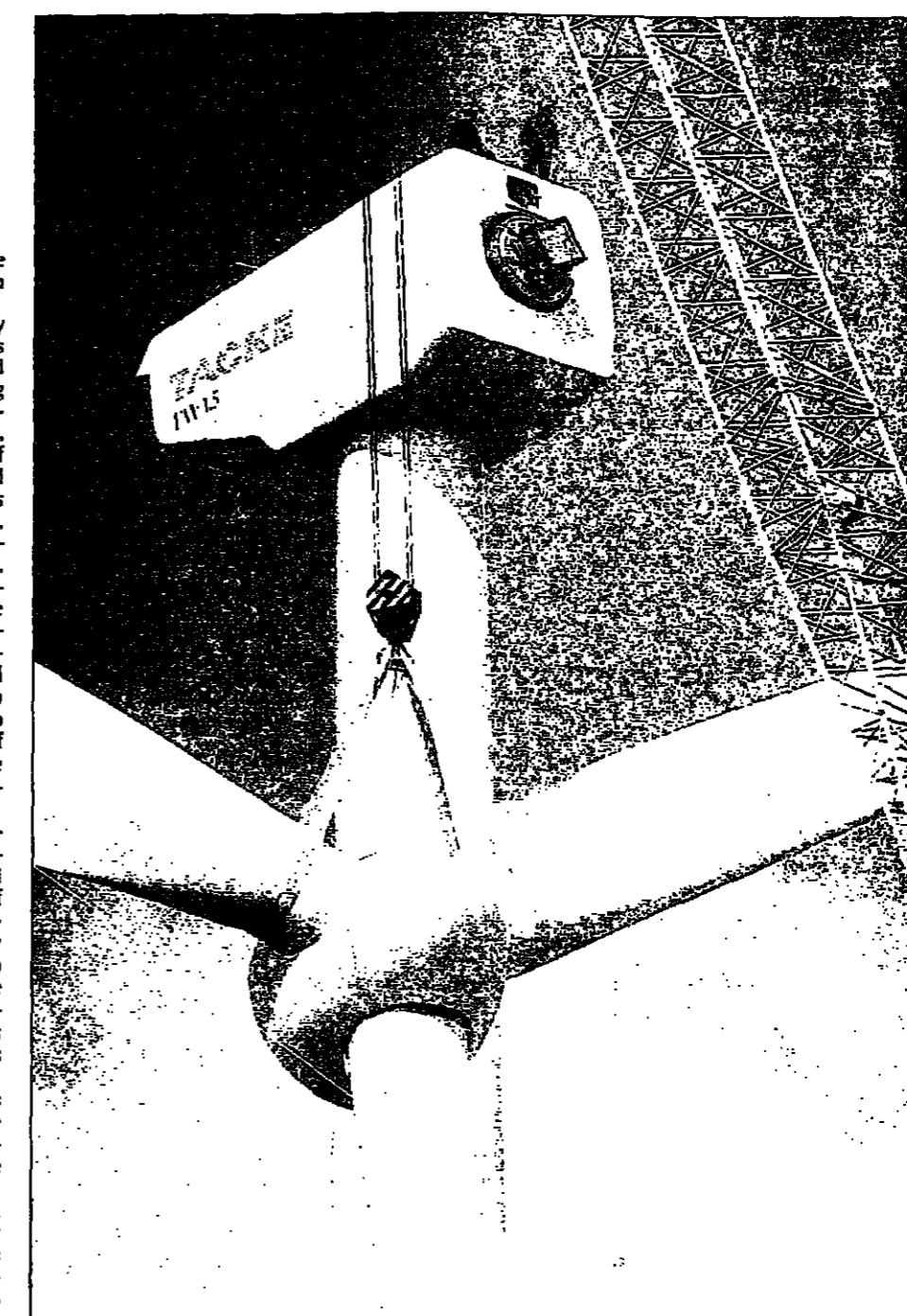


application later this year and hopes to begin construction by 1999. Under the 1989 Electricity Act, the application would bypass the normal town and country planning procedures and be decided by the Department of Trade and Industry. Durham County Council, which is opposed to such large developments in sensitive

countryside, would have a merely consultative role.

Mark Shaw, a resident of Rookhope and chairman of Preservation of Weardale, a group campaigning against the wind farm, said: "The decision on planning permission will in effect be removed from the local authority and given to the very government department that awarded the contracts to sell electricity in the first place."

Wind power is an endlessly



renewable source of energy, is safer than nuclear power and produces none of the polluting emissions associated with fossil fuels. However, farms are, by necessity, sited in some of the wildest and most beautiful landscapes in Britain, such as those in the North Pennines, the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales, the Peak District, Wales, Cornwall and the Norfolk Broads. Even in these areas, wind supply is intermittent and unpredictable, making for low efficiency. Actual electricity output from Welsh wind farms in 1996 was no more than 23 per cent of capacity, according to the Government's Energy Technology Support Unit.

The Countryside Commission, the Government's adviser on land use, has calculated that the official target of deriving 10 per cent of electricity supply from wind power by 2025 would require up to 40,000 wind turbines of the size currently operating — there are 640 or so turbines now in use, mainly in Wales and Cornwall.

Even if all future turbines

were to be of the gigantic size proposed for the North Pennines, some 10,000 would be needed. Even then, wind energy would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by only slightly over 3 per cent as electricity generation is responsible for no more than 33 per cent of such pollution.

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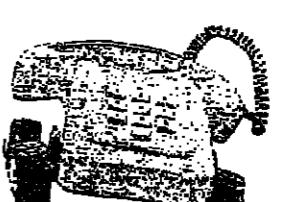
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B52 pilot prepared for court martial

FROM IAN BRODIE
IN WASHINGTON

KELLY FLINN, the first woman to pilot a B52 bomber, will take her chances with a court martial for adultery with a civilian if the US Air Force denies her plea for an honourable discharge.

She will refuse to settle for a general discharge, indicating an anomaly on her service record, if it is offered to her, she said on the *60 Minutes* CBS television programme. Her voice breaking with emotion, Lieutenant Flinn, 26 and single, said her decision to resign was the toughest she had ever made after dedicating her life to the pursuit of her dream to fly for the air force.

She believed her decision was the best way to resolve the case for both sides. "I think this will give both myself and the air force the opportunity to come to some kind of reconciliation between the two of us, and a peaceful agreement."

The air force was in no mood to grab the olive branch, despite earlier indications that it would. Air force spokesman said that her prospects for an honourable discharge were slim. The colonel presiding at her court martial in North Dakota said it would open today on schedule, though an adjournment to consider her plea would seem prudent.

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, confirmed earlier reports that it was time for the Pentagon to review relationships between men and women in the armed forces, a sure sign that the issue has become a political hot potato. There ought to be one standard and no selective enforcement, he said.

Pentagon unveils plans for leaner war machine

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE Pentagon, announcing the most comprehensive review of United States defences since the end of the Cold War, last night reached a compromise to axe dozens of bases and thousands of personnel while maintaining America's ability to fight on two fronts at the same time.

William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, said his blueprint for the 21st century would strike a balance between the present and the future by retaining sufficient forces to lead the world but also investing in a new generation of advanced weapons to combat uncertain threats on the horizon.

He said forces would be trimmed primarily in the support structure of the "tail" and modestly in the combat power of the "tooth". Mr Cohen added: "The result will be a force capable of carrying out today's missions with acceptable strategic risk while allowing us to stabilise our investment programme."

"We preserved funding for the next generation of systems, such as information systems, strike systems, mobility forces and missile defence systems, that will ensure our domination of the battlespace in 2010 and beyond."

The quadrennial defence review requires a reduction in active US Army, Navy and Air Force personnel of 60,000. Reservists would be cut by 55,000, and the Pentagon would reduce its civilian staff by 80,000. The army, however,

would retain ten combat-ready divisions while the navy is to keep 12 battle carrier and amphibious-ready groups.

Under the proposal, the surface fleet will be reduced by 12 to 16 and the navy will lose 23 attack submarines, as well as almost half the planned number of 1,000 F/A-18E/F aircraft.

The Defence Secretary said that arms procurement was running at about \$15 billion (£9 billion) below requirement while the armed forces had 15 per cent more bases than were needed.

His review, which is certain to draw criticism from military officials and Republicans in Congress, requests two additional rounds of base closures.

Funds from the closures and from troop reductions would be used to boost certain weapons programmes such as the National Missile Defence System, which the Pentagon hopes will be ready for deployment by the millennium.

The review also focused on the danger to American forces of "asymmetric threats", ranging from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons to terrorist attacks and information warfare.

Mr Cohen declared: "America begins the millennium as the sole superpower, the indispensable nation." He added: "The responsibilities are heavy and the choices difficult, but with these choices come enormous benefits and opportunities."

WHERE THE AXE WILL FALL

THE main elements of the report sent to Congress are:

- Two new rounds of domestic military base closures in 1999 and 2001 to save money for new high-tech arms.
- Cut of 61,700 troops from 1.4 million-member active-duty armed forces. Air Force will lose 26,900; Navy 18,000; Army 15,000 and Marine Corps 1,800.
- National Guard and Reserves cut by 54,000, including 45,000 from Army, and 60,800 civilians employed by services will go.
- Current strategy of forward-deployed forces retained, including 100,000 in Europe and 100,000 in western Pacific, prepared to fight and win two wars at once.
- Some reductions, but no cancellations outlined, in Air Force F22 "stealth" fighters being developed by Lockheed Martin, Navy FA-18E/F fighters built by McDonnell Douglas and Marine Corps V-22 tilt-rotor helicopters built by Boeing and Textron.
- Long-range plan retained for expected \$170 billion joint strike fighter programme that Lockheed Martin and Boeing are competing to build in the next century.
- Twelve aircraft carriers kept in Navy; and the Air Force's present plans to increase B2 "stealth" bomber fleet to 21 aircraft does not change. (Reuters)



Cook delivers warning on Bosnia

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ROBIN COOK, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday delivered an unequivocal message to the Clinton Administration that if the US withdrew troops from Bosnia, British and other European countries would pull out too.

"I do not want anyone in the US to be under any misapprehension: the principle is one out, all out. We were there before US troops arrived, and it was an uncomfortable and lonely place to be," he said.

In a private meeting yesterday morning, William Cohen, the Defence Secretary, said he appreciated the dangers of an early withdrawal of troops, but it could be politically

impossible for President Clinton to keep them there. Mr Cook said it was too early to say whether the integration process under the Dayton agreement would have gone far enough to allow troops to leave next year.

Mr Cook, the first Cabinet minister of the new Labour Government to visit Washington, said the Administration wished Labour well and that he found "no substantial differences of opinion". He added that he had wanted to come to Washington, if only for a day, "to signal that we want to have a strong working relationship with one of our oldest allies".

On Hong Kong, Mr Cook

said: "We will be looking for US support to make sure that Britain's agreements with China are respected and that Hong Kong people retain civil liberties they have come to expect."

But he emphasised that whatever pressure the US puts on China, "we are anxious that the Most Favoured Nation agreement continues". He said that removing MFN trading privileges from China would damage the Hong Kong economy and hurt its people.

Mr Cook said that he planned to attend the handing over from British to Chinese rule on June 30 and that

Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, might also attend.

Yesterday Mr Cook and the Clinton Administration issued a joint declaration on clearing up the unsolved mystery of Nazi gold. Mr Cook said that in working towards the new Europe, "we must also put right remaining injustices from the period when Europe was divided and at war".

Ahead of the planned visit to Washington by Marjorie Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, at the end of this week, Mr Cook reiterated the Government's insistence that Sinn Fein could not enter talks until an IRA ceasefire had been declared.

Air crash at Brazil show

Rio de Janeiro: Two small aircraft crashed in mid-air at an airport in Brazil's southern Santa-Catarina state, killing all 12 passengers as well as one woman, on the ground, who died of a heart attack when one of the bodies fell on top of her, an airport spokesman said. The crash happened at celebrations marking the airport's 50th anniversary. (Reuters)

335 killed in army attacks

Colombo: Sri Lankan security forces renewed artillery attacks against suspected Tamil Tiger guerrilla positions in the island's north yesterday as the death toll in the latest army operation climbed to 335, officials said here. The Defence Ministry said that the separatist rebels had lost at least 250 of their fighters in the army's biggest ever ground offensive. (AFP)

Ice rescue for whalers

Anchorage: Helicopters off northern Alaska rescued 142 whale hunters after ice cracked and they drifted out to sea. The rescue took more than seven hours in fog. The whalers used hand-held global positioning systems to guide rescuers. "Every time they took a load of people, we were in a different place to the time they got back," said a stranded rescue team member. (AP)

Eight arrests at horse cull

Wellington: Eight animal lovers were arrested for trespassing as a round-up aimed at culling 1,200 of wild horses began on army land 150 miles north of here. Most of the horses will be slaughtered for pet food. The herd, descended mainly from military horses, was until recently protected, but conservationists say the horses are destroying rare native plants. (AP)

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Octogenarian disputes Florida swim record

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN NEW YORK

AN INDIGNANT American man, 94, has disputed the record claimed by Susie Maroney, the Australian long-distance swimmer, who was hailed last week as the first person to swim unassisted across the Straits of Florida, which separate Cuba and the mainland America.

Walter Poenisch, who lives in Grove City, Ohio, has declared: "She's a pretty good swimmer, but she's not the first to make that swim. I was."

The octogenarian, who was paralysed seven years ago and is now confined to a wheelchair, asserts that he made the crossing in 1978, when he was 63. His timing, 34 hours and 15 minutes, compares unfavourably with

that of Miss Maroney, who took only 24 hours and 20 minutes. But Mr Poenisch took a longer route — 138 miles to her 113 — and says that he had unfavourable currents.

Mr Poenisch's claim has always been dogged by controversy, as he lacked an independent observer to verify his record. Like Miss Maroney, he swam in a shark-proof metal cage that was dragged by a boat ahead of him. But he was accompanied only by the boat's captain, a friend and his wife.

The *Guinness Book of Records* did, nonetheless, credit him with the Florida Straits swim in its American editions from 1979 to 1991, but dropped him thereafter.

British bomb expert in Oklahoma trial

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

LINDA JONES, a British forensic science expert, was set to take centre stage in the trial of Timothy McVeigh as the prosecution case against the chief suspect in the Oklahoma City bombing entered its final phase yesterday.

Mrs Jones, principal forensic investigator at the Ministry of Defence explosives laboratory at Fort Halstead in Kent, is seen as a pivotal independent witness against Mr McVeigh, 29, who is alleged to have detonated the bomb that killed 168 adults and children on April 19, 1995.

Prosecutors hope that Ms Jones's testimony will shore up evidence from the FBI crime laboratory, which last month was accused of sloppy procedures and biased conclu-

sions in its evaluation of the explosion at the Alfred P. Murrah Building.

Ms Jones is a veteran of countless IRA bomb investigations and was last year awarded the OBE for her 23 years of service at the MoD. She has examined fragments from the 4,000lb ammonium nitrate bomb and is expected during her testimony in Denver this week to counter criticism of the laboratory and attempt to establish explosives residue and other evidence linking Mr McVeigh to the bombing.

But Stephen Jones, the chief defence lawyer, has said that the laboratory had contaminated, abused and manipulated the evidence against his client and "engaged in forensic prostitution".

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Kabila 'to enter Kinshasa today without bloodshed', says Mandela

BY JAN RAATH IN HARARE
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

LAURENT KABILA: the victorious Zairean rebel leader, is to enter Kinshasa today. President Mandela of South Africa said yesterday, and gave an assurance that the self-proclaimed head of state would do so peacefully.

"It seems everything is going according to plan," Mr Mandela said after an hour's meeting with President Mugabe in the Zimbabwean capital where he is on a state visit. "As far as he is concerned, he will enter Kinshasa without bloodshed. His troops have been acknowledged, even by his enemies, as being disciplined, and they have been courteous," Mr Mandela said. He added that Mr Kabila would address the nation at 9pm local time tomorrow.

Mr Mandela, whose Government was the first to recognise the Alliance of Democratic Forces for Congo-Zaire after its troops seized

Kinshasa on Saturday, also gave Mr Kabila a powerful personal endorsement. In an address to the Zimbabwean parliament, he urged MPs to reject "the adverse publicity" he is getting from certain quarters, for obvious reasons.

Mr Mandela, who was kept waiting by Mr Kabila during the failed peace talks with the deposed President Mobutu in the past fortnight, said he was speaking as one who has been involved in negotiations in that country. He

said: "I want to assure you that President Kabila is handling the question of assuming power in that country, uniting it and addressing the problems of the poor in an excellent manner. He has lived up to the expectations of those who are patriotic enough to be guided by facts and not fiction."

The ailing Mr Mobutu was reported to be resting in Togo at the residence of his old friend, Gnassingbe Eyadema, the West African state's dictator. He fled

there after rebels seized his jungle palace in northern Zaire.

His eldest son and 109 members of his family were said to be stuck across the river from Kinshasa in Brazzaville, Congo, because a flight crew supposed to fly them onwards refused to have anything more to do with the Mobutus.

Government officials in Togo, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Mr Mobutu would not stay in the country for more than a few days. They did not yet know

his ultimate destination. Togo state television earlier said that Mr Mobutu had only briefly stopped in the country on his way to Rabat, the Moroccan capital. It reported that he had slipped out of his home village of Gbadolite late on Saturday night in a cargo plane just ahead of Mr Kabila's troops, and flew to Togo.

The television report said the ousted leader was awakened by gunfire late on Saturday night and was afraid that rebel troops had

entered his village and were closing in on his palace. The rebels fired on the departing plane.

■ Vienna: Kofi Annan, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, said the world body was ready to work with a new government in Zaire and appealed to the international community to help the country on the road to recovery. He said he was pleased that there had been no major bloodshed in Kinshasa as rebel forces took control of the capital. (Reuters)

CORINNE DUPKA / REUTER

Rebel tells of 800-mile march to freedom in gum boots

DAVID ORR IN KINSHASA

AS SOLDIERS of the defeated Zairean Armed Forces surrendered their weapons outside a military barracks in Kinshasa yesterday, one of the victors told of his role in the campaign to overthrow President Mobutu.

Amisi Chalondawa was one of a number of fighters who looked on as men in civilian clothes came forward in single file and dumped their arms on a pile containing thousands of Kalashnikov rifles.

"I killed some of the enemy," he said. "And some of my comrades died in the fighting. One lost an arm in a grenade blast and another disappeared in the jungle. But we fought to free the country. We did it for our families and the whole population."

Mr Chalondawa, 22, was among the advance units of the rebel alliance which last Saturday captured the capital of Zaire (since renamed the Democratic Republic of Congo). His story gives a rare insight into the insurgency led by Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader who has just declared himself President of Africa's third-largest nation. It also affords a glimpse of the personal motivation of a man who took part in the epic struggle to overthrow one of the world's most reviled dictators.

I first heard of Kabila from my boss at the petrol station

where I worked in Kunshuru," Mr Chalondawa said. "He joined the [rebel] alliance and he told me all about him. Soon after Kunshuru was liberated last September I signed up."

Mr Chalondawa is the youngest of seven children who were born and raised in eastern Zaire. His father's job in the civil service obliged the Amisi family to move from town to town until finally they settled in Kunshuru on the Ugandan border. In his late teens Mr Chalondawa went to nearby Goma to study mechanical engineering, but lack of funds forced him to abandon the course.

The fees were \$25 (now about £15) a term, he says.

"My father's income was only \$1 a month. Sometimes he had to go and ask for his pay and when he did that he would be beaten up by the army. The way they treated him made me very angry. He supplemented his salary by growing and selling vegetables but it still wasn't enough. He supported my decision to join the alliance. He told me that I could be independent that way."

The insurgency of the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire began as a localised self-defence campaign by the Bayamulenge, a community of ethnic Tutsis, in eastern Zaire. Mr Chalondawa belongs to the Rega tribe but



A young soldier of Laurent Kabila's victorious rebels examines a pile of guns confiscated from the headquarters of President Mobutu's elite guard in Kinshasa yesterday

trained in weaponry, tactics and self-defence in the forest west of Kunshuru. He says his military instructors were Rwandans, though other groups were trained by Ugandans, Tanzanians and Angolans. By November Mr Chalondawa was considered ready for the front and was dispatched to his birthplace,

Butembo, 25 miles from the Ugandan border. Over the next six months he covered hundreds of miles, sometimes by aircraft but more often by foot. During that time he took part in a number of battles but says that mostly the Zairean troops ran away.

He estimates he walked

nearly 800 miles through jungle and bush in his one pair of rubber boots before arriving in Kinshasa.

Many of our men died on the way, he says. "They just got exhausted and died. There was a lot of malaria and dysentery. Sometimes we'd go for four days with nothing but a few biscuits to eat."

Mr Chalondawa has not yet

been paid and says he has no idea when he will receive his first salary. He intends to stay in the army.

"I'm happy to be here in Kinshasa," he says, gazing around at the big houses and high-rise buildings. "I would have preferred if Mobutu had not fled so we could have arrested and punished him.

But the main thing is he's gone."

Since his arrival in the capital and the takeover of Camp Tshashi, Mr Chalondawa has got his hands on a clean uniform. He is also wearing a new pair of military boots to replace the Wellingtons which finally fell apart as he marched into Kinshasa.

New leaders take Africa's destiny into their own hands

The victorious Laurent Kabila joins a network of men determined to end Central Africa's chaos, writes Sam Kiley



Museveni: ready to take on Savimbi's forces

Kagame: helped to drive out Uganda rebels

Garang: won backing for Sudan revolt

FRANCE'S once strong influence in Africa has waned dramatically, with its ally, Mobutu Sese Seko, deposed and on the run.

However, if Washington and London believe their African stars are rising, they may be mistaken. For the first time in a century, African leaders are starting to take charge of the destiny of the continent.

The fall of Zaire to the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire completes a network of friends and allies stretching from Angola to Eritrea who are expected to reshape the continent in an image of their own, and scrub out the colonial map of Africa drawn up at Bismarck's Berlin conference of European powers in 1884.

out the chaos of Central Africa.

In November last year Washington gave diplomatic support to the mainly Tutsi rebellion in eastern Zaire which grew into a revolution and toppled Mr Mobutu last weekend. As a result French officials saw an "Anglophone conspiracy" behind Mr Kabila's movement in which Britain supplied the goals which the struggle quickly embraced: the overthrow of President Mobutu and the destruction of his corrupt regime. Supported by his regional allies, Mr Kabila was able to give his uprising the impetus of a multi-ethnic national movement. Mr Chalondawa was considered ready for the front and was dispatched to his birthplace,

Butembo, 25 miles from the Ugandan border. Over the next six months he covered hundreds of miles, sometimes by aircraft but more often by foot. During that time he took part in a number of battles but says that mostly the Zairean troops ran away.

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"What's worrying us is we don't know where, or when, these men are going to stop.

Will they try to take on every bad guy on the continent? Is Sani Abacha [Nigeria's military ruler] next? How comfortable is Mr [Daniel arap] Moi in Kenya? Is he on their hit list?" asked one Western ambassador in Kinshasa last night.

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Korea scandal traps another official as President's clean crusade crumbles



Kim Young Sam: his presidency is crippled

BY ROBERT WHYMANT

SOUTH KOREAN prosecutors yesterday arrested a former top government security official on bribery charges in a scandal that has ensnared a son of President Kim Young Sam and diminished presidential credibility.

Kim Ki Sup, a former deputy director of the Agency for National Security Planning, is suspected of collecting \$169,000 (£103,000) in exchange for helping a businessman to win a government licence for a cable television station.

The former security official was a close associate of Kim Hyun

Chul, the President's second son, who is also accused taking kickbacks from the businessman. Kim Hyun Chul, 37, was arrested last Saturday on charges of pocketing \$3.6 million in bribes and evading \$1.5 million in taxes. Prosecutors say they plan to question the two men, now being held in the same prison in Seoul, about \$16.3 million in more than 100 bank accounts. Investigators are also looking into allegations made by opposition parties that Kim Ki Sup leaked sensitive government information to his friend in the presidential palace.

Kim junior never held a govern-

ment post, but was known to be President Kim's most trusted adviser. His meddling in state affairs earned him the scornful title of "little President". Kim Ki Sup resigned from the powerful spy agency in March after questions about his relationship with the President's son.

President Kim is not directly implicated in the bribes scandal, but it deals yet another blow to his credibility as a crusader against corruption. His presidency is already crippled by a corruption scandal in which 11 senior businessmen and politicians are charged with giving or taking

bribes in exchange for arranging bank loans to Hanbo Steel Industry Company. The company collapsed in January with debts of \$5.6 billion, exposing corruption by senior government officials.

South Korea has essentially had to telescope 100 years of development into a tenth of that time. The system of *chaebol*, or large conglomerates, being given carte blanche to develop the country's industries after the Korean War under the mantra of catching up with Japan led to close relationships between government and industry that do not exist in developed economies. This hot-

house system of developing the economy was destined to breed corruption.

Yesterday prosecutors demanded long prison terms for the "immortal" defendants, who include a former Cabinet minister and three top aides to President Kim. The prosecution sought a 20-year prison sentence for Chung Tae-Soo, 74, the founder of the Hanbo Group, who allegedly scattered bribes among bankers and politicians to keep loans rolling in.

"This is a large-scale corruption case perpetrated by a collaboration of immoral politicians, bankers and corporate executives," Park

San Gil, the prosecutor, told a court in Seoul. "It has even damaged the nation's reputation."

The Hanbo scandal, now compounded by the arrest of his son, has severely wounded President Kim, who swept to power four years ago under the banner of clean government. It has reduced him to a caretaker President until the election in December. By law, Mr Kim cannot run for a second term.

Opposition choice Kim Dae-Jung, the opposition leader, was chosen by his party to fight the presidential election. It will be Mr Kim's fourth try. (Reuters)

Defecting general boosts Taliban's chances of victory

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS, SOUTH ASIA CORRESPONDENT

GENERAL Abdul Rashid Dostum, leader of northern Afghanistan and the last bulwark against the fundamentalist Taliban Islamic militia, faced a potentially disastrous mutiny by one of his key commanders last night. It is the first crack in the military alliance, backed by Russia and Iran, that controls a third of the country.

General Abdul Malik, the alliance's spokesman on foreign affairs, announced that he had defected to Taliban for the sake of "national unity". Echoing Taliban's trades, he called General Dostum a "bad Muslim" and the main obstacle to peace in Afghanistan. This is the most serious blow to the alliance, which includes Burhanuddin Rabbani, the former President, since its formation seven months ago.

General Malik said the alliance's forces had been disarmed in his own province of Faryab. He claimed to have the support of General Dostum's "inner circle". If true, the gates of northern Afghanistan could soon swing open for the final Taliban advance.

News of the split will alarm Central Asian states, Russia, Iran and India, which all have their reasons for worrying about Taliban's consolidation

in Afghanistan. The militia captured two-thirds of the country more by bribing than fighting, proof that it has substantial outside resources. Private Saudi money is probably one source of cash. There is also substantial income from opium, which provides most of the heroin used in Europe.

This is a dangerous time for

It is the first crack in the military alliance that is backed by the Russians and Iran

General Dostum. The snow has melted in the mountain passes that have protected him all winter from Taliban's forces, and a military push against him could be imminent. Central Asian states have sealed their borders, fearing that large numbers of people will seek refuge.

Mazar-i-Sharif, which appeared to be calm last night, as news of the revolt came

through, is a mud-brick town where alcohol is openly on sale. General Dostum, who drives a bullet-proof black Cadillac imported from Germany, is fond of Scotch. Women are allowed to work and do not have to wear the veil. Gambling is also allowed. Such practices lay behind Taliban's repeated assertion that General Dostum is a bad Muslim.

He is also despised by many Afghans because he was a Communist commander in the former Russian-backed regime of Muhammad Najibullah, who was tortured and murdered by Taliban late last year. Najibullah was left publicly hanging by the neck for two days in Kabul, and Taliban leaders have said that General Dostum faces a similar fate if caught.

Uzbekistan would clearly offer sanctuary if his regime were toppled, as would Tajikistan, both of which have supplied military assistance. Russia has given him heavy armoury and technical support, including the repairing of launchers for his Scud long-range missiles, which are all but useless in the kind of war he faces with Taliban.

The Afghan Islamic Press Agency in Islamabad reported that General Malik's fighters had arrested several of General Dostum's commanders. General Dostum, who lives with his wife and children outside Mazar-i-Sharif, is popular among Uzbeks and Tajiks in his fiefdom, but he cannot rely on the loyalty of Pashtuns, who are a substantial minority in the north.

The north is effectively a different country. Mazar-i-Sharif has electricity, the shops are full of a variety of goods and there is a local economy of sorts, although the currency has had to be propped up by dollars sent by Iran to prevent its collapse.

As many as 300,000 people were evacuated before the storm hit. There are insufficient cyclone shelters for everybody and poor people are often reluctant to heed warnings issued by siren and over the radio for fear of losing their land and possessions to squatters. Some of the world's



Villagers wait for family members to return from fishing off Chittagong in the cyclone-swept Bay of Bengal yesterday

Thousands flee Bangladesh cyclone

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

A CYCLONE tore through Bangladesh last night, leaving death and devastation over a wide area. It formed in the Bay of Bengal and moved into the city of Cox's Bazaar, knocking out telephone communications. Winds reached 150mph, tossing stumps over large distances.

As many as 300,000 people were evacuated before the storm hit. There are insufficient cyclone shelters for everybody and poor people are often reluctant to heed warnings issued by siren and over the radio for fear of losing their land and possessions to squatters. Some of the world's

most devastating natural disasters have been caused by cyclones in Bangladesh.

The city of Chittagong also lost its telephone links, making it impossible for the authorities to assess accurately the scale of the disaster or to estimate the number of deaths and injuries. A tidal surge submerged the island of St Martin and adjacent islands, sweeping away trees and electricity poles.

Wind speeds increased as the storm hit the coast, a constantly changing delta that attracts the land-hungry poor despite the annual danger of cyclones. A disaster alert was given over much of the country as the cyclone neared the

coast. Thousands of residents huddled in their homes by oil lamps and candles after electricity supplies were knocked out, awaiting the main deluge.

The runway at Chittagong airport was submerged beneath sea water, and any serious damage to it will hamper relief efforts. Tidal surges flooded a vast area of the south. Telephone communications failed as the storm progressed, giving an indication of its severity.

A chronic lack of cyclone shelters, which are built out of thick concrete, regularly forces people to abandon their homes or brave deadly storms. Bangladesh has built large numbers of additional

shelters in recent years but it may never be able to construct enough for everybody, given the rapid increases in population.

The entire administration of southeastern Bangladesh, the area that seems to have taken the worst battering, was on red alert. Army and navy personnel joined civilian workers in rescue operations.

Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the Prime Minister, postponed a trip overseas because of the disaster. In 1991 an estimated 139,000 people were killed in a cyclone that devastated the southeastern coast, ranking it as one of the worst natural disasters on record in the world.

The Gurkhas receive between £416 and £666 a month as "domestic" servants. Mr Gurung says Hong Kong employers are attracted to the Nepalese fighters because of their reputation for discipline, loyalty and likeable manner.

The Hong Kong Immigration Department says the territory has 429 domestic helpers from Nepal, compared with only 32 in December 1990.

Ricky Lin, whose Artforce employment agency has found servants jobs for more than 100 former Gurkhas, said:

"People like employing Gurkhas because they have trained as soldiers and have worked in Hong Kong before,

so know the city. Chinese like employing Gurkhas because they are honest and they aren't interested in knowing about their background or where they got their money from."

"Nowadays, some Hong Kong people don't like to hire Chinese people because they ask too many questions about their money."

The Gurkhas' pension is calculated according to a 1947 agreement between Britain, India and Nepal which states that Nepalese soldiers in the British Army must receive the same pensions and benefits as those in the Indian Army.

Gurkha regiments were the backbone of Hong Kong's garrison since its headquarters was set up in 1972.

A further 50 Gurkhas have been hired as security guards in Macau, the Portuguese enclave across the Pearl River from Hong Kong, where they work in its casinos.

£120,000 awards Chibbal Limbu, 46, a former Gurkha captain in the British Army, was awarded £120,000 after suing the Hong Kong Government and its catering equipment suppliers for burns he received which cost him his job. (APF)

Frenchman jumps at chance to sell Albanian frogs

FROM TOM WALKER
IN DURRES

AMONG the first exports to emerge from Albania's economic gloom are live frogs — up to three tons a day, destined for the dinner tables of France.

The Albafrog company is the brainchild of Julien Roche, a French entrepreneur, and is unlikely to please the local authorities. Its corporate logo depicts a frog leaning on a concrete bunker while holding a Kalashnikov assault rifle. A French tricolour is wrapped around its chest.

Over the past chaotic months M Roche, whose other business interests include mobile telephones and

a private airline has been holding secret negotiations with the legions of frog catchers making a living from the nation's vast coastal marshlands. He said he and his partners have invested more than £150,000 in Albafrog.

The French love affair with les grenouilles albanaises dates back more than 30 years, to the days when a mysterious "Monsieur Arthus" would tour the Albanian marshes with his refrigerated lorry. Since 1991 an Albanian family in the southern port of Vlore has exported up to 50 tons of frogs a year, but this year, with Vlore firmly in rebel hands, its collecting lorries are unlikely to make the hazardous trip north into territor-

ies not just infested with frogs but also President Berisha's loyalists.

"It's a beautiful market," said M Roche in his seafront villa adjacent to the President's summer residence. "The limits are determined by demand but how much you can produce."

With commercial frog-hunting banned in France since 1976, gourmets have often had to endure frozen frogs from Turkey, China and Egypt. The quality of Albania's frogs was legendary, but the country's isolation precluded their export. "They have the best taste," M Roche said. "All that was needed was some organisation."

May is the start of the frog season in Albania, and M Roche's

frogs and I can't complain," Mr Cakaj takes frogs from up to 50 local people, whom he pays the equivalent of about 60p per kilogram. Only frogs weighing between 30 and 90 grams are selected, and on a good night up to 500kg are collected.

The fact that M Roche has started a frog business is unlikely to improve his relations with President Berisha. Two years ago, M Roche received a trial load of 30kg of frogs from Vlore and was suitably impressed by the few he ate. The rest he liberated in his garden, only to find that they had hopping across the road and invaded the wedding reception of his important neighbour's daughter.



Mark Cakaj: wary about new partners in amphibian trade

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Le Pen and greens pose poll threat to Left and Right

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE final week of campaigning in the French parliamentary elections has begun, with the pollsters forced into silence and parties buckling down to the complex mathematical conundrum that is the French electoral system.

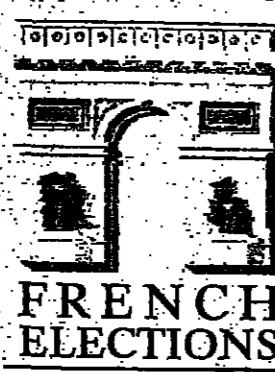
In the first round of the election next Sunday, voters will cast their initial ballots for the 6,242 candidates standing for 577 parliamentary seats.

A candidate who attracts more than 50 per cent of the vote in the first round is automatically elected. Contenders who gain at least 12.5 per cent of registered voters can then go through to the second round a week later on June 1. If only one or, conceivably, none of the candidates passes the 12.5 per cent threshold, then the two with the highest scores compete in the second-round run-off.

Few candidates are elected in the first round — the Centre-Right had just 80 outright winners in the last election, before a massive landslide victory in the final poll — but the system winnows out the field and provides a key indicator of which the competing parties are now squaring up.

The pattern of the dispersed first-round vote is also an intriguing glimpse into the national political mood, since many voters use the opportunity to vote for fringe parties or register a protest vote, saving their "important" vote for those candidates remaining in the second round.

The serious jockeying and



regrouping will take place next week, between the first and second rounds, when the mosaic comes into sharper focus. In many cases this will translate into a straight battle between the two strongest contenders from the Right and Left, with unsuccessful candidates dropping out and putting their support behind the front-runner on their side of the political divide.

As required under French electoral law, the last opinion poll was published on Sunday, predicting a renewed but slimmed-down majority for the Centre-Right.

► Pilots strike: France's SNCF railways reported last night that traffic was slowly returning to normal after ticket inspectors in most cities voted to end a five-day strike that disrupted long-distance and inter-city trains.

For the centre-right coalition, one of the most unpredictable elements in the equation is the challenge from the far-right National Front. The party, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has said its troops will fight on in the second round.

For those candidates remaining in the second round,

wherever it qualifies, which could mean a Front candidate in the run-off for as many as 150 seats. Few, if any, far-right candidates will be elected to the National Assembly, but by staying in the race they are likely to bleed votes from the Centre-Right to the benefit of the Socialists.

But the Left also faces its own wild cards in the shape of the diverse green movement, which is predicted to draw 5 per cent of the vote with about 1,000 candidates. The Verts, the largest ecology party, has drawn up a pact with the Socialists, agreeing to support the party's candidates in 77 constituencies in return for left-wing backing in 29 other contests. The six other green parties fan out across the political spectrum and may prove an important, if unpredictable factor, in the final outcome.

As required under French electoral law, the last opinion poll was published on Sunday, predicting a renewed but slimmed-down majority for the Centre-Right.

► Pilots strike: France's SNCF railways reported last night that traffic was slowly returning to normal after ticket inspectors in most cities voted to end a five-day strike that disrupted long-distance and inter-city trains.

For the centre-right coalition, one of the most unpredictable elements in the equation is the challenge from the far-right National Front. The party, led by Jean-Marie Le Pen, has said its troops will fight on in the second round.

For those candidates remaining in the second round,



Festetics manor in Deg, southwest of Budapest, comes with a swimming pool, a heated football pitch and lots of Hungarian red tape

Halfpenny des res, needs some attention (say £6m)

FROM EVA KERES
IN DEG, HUNGARY

FOR only a fraction of a penny you can become lord of a neo-classical Hungarian manor, complete with a huge park, a lake, a swimming pool and even a heated football pitch.

But there is a catch: several in fact. Although the Government is willing to install you in Festetics manor for only a forint — less than half a penny — the cash-strapped Government will

expect you to restore the crumbling buildings entirely at your own expense.

"I'd say it'd take 1.5 to two billion forints [£4.56 million] to restore this to its one-time splendour," Kalman Salamin, of the Treasury Asset Management Agency, said of Festetics. What you get in return is a two-storey mansion with 47,300 sq ft of floorspace.

Mr Salamin's agency is offering leases on Festetics, 85 miles southwest of Budapest, and three other big estates. This Thursday is the

deadline for prospective bidders to submit lease proposals, but that can be extended if acceptable offers have not been received.

Mr Salamin conceded that his agency had not been "flooded with bids", but said that an American company, which he would not identify, had made some inquiries.

In addition to the cost, buyers face the equally daunting prospect of Hungarian bureaucracy. There is, for example, the lake at Festetics. It is under the authority of the Education

Ministry. Asked why, Mr Salamin just shrugged, then added: "Since it is also a fish pond, the local fishermen's association has controlling rights over the fish."

And for good measure, a small villa on the tiny island in the middle of the lake is used by the Agriculture Ministry as a museum. "To further complicate matters, four families who also have rights live on the [Festetics] property in various buildings," Mr Salamin conceded. (AP)

Venice 'raiders' pay their way

FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

SIXTY demonstrators wearing green shirts of the separatist Northern League, who briefly occupied the Campagna (bell tower) in St Mark's Square, Venice, paid their entrance fee and left peacefully, it emerged yesterday.

The "raid" on Sunday, ten days after an armed assault on the landmark by militants campaigning for the city's independence had a similar comic opera flavour. After a rally addressed by Umberto Bossi, the League leader, the protesters flew the green and white flag of "Padania", the mythical independent northern Italian state proclaimed by Signor Bossi last September.

The League leader hopes a "referendum" next Sunday will revivewaning public support for secession. "The real point is that the League has



been upset," Corriere della Sera observed. Signor Bossi has continued to exploit northern Italian resentment of high taxation from Rome, pointing out that Italy's difficulties in meeting the criteria for the European single currency are compounded by its need to subsidise the poorer, more corrupt and less efficient South. But his creation of "Padania", with its own militia, shadow government and currency, has largely fallen flat, with the League losing votes in local elections.

Behind his inflammatory rhetoric, Signor Bossi has begun to reopen the dialogue with Rome on whether the League might, after all, settle for devolved powers within a more federal Italy. More extreme separatists are outflanking him, and have sparked an impassioned debate on whether devolution can avert further acts of "terrorism".

The eight original St Mark's Square activists go on trial tomorrow on charges ranging from terrorism to subversion over the episode ten days ago. A group of entrepreneurs has opened a fund to pay their legal costs.

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PILOT

Opting for a quick cut and run

Surgeon Peter McDonald carefully selected a colleague with a steady hand and a sense of humour to perform his vasectomy

Some countries give you a medal the day your fourth child arrives. For me, it meant an operation. Only a minor operation under local anaesthetic but, as a surgeon, I've been doing vasectomies for years and I can tell you that the complications can be anything but minor. A swollen, blue scrotum, so large that it can be seen on the other side of the works canteen, is no laughing matter.

Forget the risk of cancer, loss of libido or a rise in your

shortly run out of its own accord. After all, it's not much more of an operation for her — a quick laparoscopy and a couple of clips. I know she doesn't want any more children and, more importantly, my manhood bits would not have to be interfered with. So how about it, darling?

For some reason, this suggestion was ignored. My friends didn't think much of it either. "Get it done and stop whinging," they said, and "Why not operate on yourself?"

I pondered a bit more and considered myself by remembering that both operations are potentially reversible, although the success rates are not high. Admittedly, having a laparoscopic sterilisation is an unkind cut than a couple of slits under local anaesthetic on either side of the goolies. But my wife seemed surprised when I suggested that she might be the intended victim. Almost as if I alone had caused the crisis, and so it was logical that it must be me who paid the ultimate price. After all, she was the one who had endured the pain of childbirth.

The surgeon I chose was a master of the *vas deferens*. As I lay on the table in my own hospital and felt the cold slap of iodine on my nether regions, I wondered if I would be as brave as all those souls I had operated on. The "just a little prick" routine seemed hilariously appropriate.

After a short pause, the scalpel went in and all was painless and good-humoured. We swapped a few more jokes and one of the staff nurses said how wonderful it was to be getting some sort of revenge after all those years of putting up with my tantrums.

Ten minutes later, I was on my way to the ward with my pants around my knees, leaning on the arm of a nurse. There was time for a cup of tea and a short drive home before the local anaesthetic wore off. I limped in and flopped on the sofa amazed at how painless it all was. My wife, who had just finished feeding the baby,



What a carry on: vasectomies may be minor in the league of operations, requiring only a local anaesthetic, but you have to be prepared to endure the eunuch jokes afterwards

has long gone and I'm hopeful that the rewards will make it all worthwhile.

Occasionally, I muse on the fact that I will never be able to father any more monsters. But no old-fashioned agonising about fertility and warrior status came to mind. I have long since been liberated from that. After all, I eat quiche and wear pink ties.

No more babies? I suppose I know a reversal is possible, but anyway I believe that I'm lucky to already have four healthy offshoots; so it's probably best to quit while I'm ahead.

Now, with my body completely repaired, I look back on my experience with some amusement. The discomfort

● Reproduced from the March issue of SHE magazine

Peter with his daughter

top E — that's all rubbish — but an operation is an operation even if it's "minor".

It's seen as quaint to have four offspring, but there are dire economic consequences. For instance, it means buying one of those European people-carriers because Ford saloons can't cope. And there are other good reasons why it is essential to stop at four, the main one being that having five or more is thought rather vulgar and promiscuous — as if it was a sign of a relationship built on constant lust. Jokes about how often the TV must have broken down get tedious.

I concluded that I had to subject myself to the scalpel of a colleague — carefully selected for his steady hand and sense of humour. A quick cut and run. But wait a minute. Why me? Why not the missus? After all, I'm 42 and have the capacity to father ten million more babies. My wife's capacity, on the other hand, will

For more than 60 years, Pilates has been the best kept secret of the fit, the chic and the beautiful. Neatly sidestepping the fashionable fads introduced every few months by image-crazed America, it has been quietly practised by dancers and an enlightened élite for decades.

As vital and beautiful today,

at the age of 70, as she was when filming *Goldfinger* or *The Avengers*, Honor Blackman swears by it. Pat Cash

has adopted it into his personal fitness regime, to complement the more vigorous and aerobic aspects of his athletic lifestyle, and Stefanie Powers

says it is "the single most effective exercise technique I have ever known".

Designed to work the deep, architectural muscles, Pilates tones and strengthens the body. The effects on posture, physical health and the shape of a figure can be dramatic. While many conventional exercise programmes emphasise shortening and bulking of the muscles, Pilates aims to lengthen muscles and emphasises good posture and balance.

Although specially designed machines are often used to provide resistance, there is a marked contrast between a Pilates studio and a fitness gym. Pilates sessions are relaxing — soft classical music fills the air and the exercises are performed slowly and gently, so that there is rarely a sweaty torso or a messed up hair-do to be seen.

"I hate the macho philosophy of pushing your body to the limit," Miss Blackman

Have a great body without raising a sweat

Victoria Walker on Pilates, the exercise routine of the chic

The exercises became extremely popular with dancers, but tended to remain exclusive to Pilates's own studio for tailored programmes to suit individuals.

Alan Herdman, Miss Blackman's Pilates instructor, brought the technique to Britain in the 1970s. Mr Herdman's training in New York involved working intensively with Joseph Pilates's original assistants. He is now chairman of the UK Pilates Foundation and is often invited to teach in America, Japan and Australia.

Many doctors and osteopaths recommend it as an effective treatment for people suffering from chronic back problems. Mr Herdman works closely with physiotherapists and osteopaths. His clients even include people in their eighties and nineties.

Gordon Thomson (whose style of Pilates differs in some areas to that of Mr Herdman) trained with Ballet Rambert and the London Contemporary Dance Theatre. He opened his first studio in 1981 and is now director of the Body Control Studios in Ken-

sington and of the Association of Pilates Teachers. A codirector of Teacher Training for the Association of Pilates Instructors, Lynn Robinson took up Pilates in Australia on the advice of her osteopath. "I suffered from terrible lower back pain," she says, "but Pilates helped me to overcome it and I haven't looked back."

Mrs Robinson is determined that Pilates should break away from its exclusive roots. She runs classes in Sevenoaks, Kent, and in London. Together with Mr Thomson, she has written a comprehensive manual featuring more than 40 illustrated exercises. They hope that the book, *Body Control: The Pilates Way*, will help to bring the technique to a wider audience.

Although it is perhaps best to experience the one-to-one intensive training of a qualified instructor, these books will bring the benefits of Pilates into the homes of everyone.

● *Body Control: The Pilates Way*, by Gordon Thomson and Lynn Robinson, is published by Boxtree, £9.99.

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THE TIMES

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Yesterday we published a full list of hotels and every day this week will repeat a section of them. Included in today's list, which covers the south of England, are a former coaching inn at Alveston, and hotels at Farnborough, within easy reach of Birdworld and the Aldershot Military Museum or at Havant where you can enjoy golf, sailing or simply lazing on a beach.

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Honor Blackman: keen fan

says. "Exercising should not be about burn, burn, burn."

Miss Blackman's introduction to Pilates more than 15 years ago was also the result of back problems. "I remember complaining to one of my fellow cast members when we were rehearsing for a stage production of the *Sound of Music*. I had awful problems with my back. I suppose it was a legacy of being thrown around on a hard floor when filming *The Avengers*."

This year she published a book on health and beauty tips, *How To Look & Feel Half Your Age For The Rest Of Your Life* (published by Virgin). In she devotes a chapter to Pilates including detailed descriptions and photographs of ten exercises that can be done at home.

Pilates is named after German-born Joseph Pilates, who developed it to improve his own body. Setting in New York in the 1920s, he set up a studio with his wife, Clara.

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CHANGING TIMES

'I am never going to be made a dame doing Dot'

After a four-year gap, actress June Brown is back playing the moaning Dot Cotton in *EastEnders*. But she has no idea why she was asked to return. Interview by Noreen Taylor

The *EastEnders* publicity aide was apologetic. June Brown had finished filming for the day and returned to her natural persona. "Sorry, you couldn't possibly photograph June as Dot Cotton now. It would take much too long. Clothes, make-up, hair, all of that."

As if on cue, June appears at the doorway of the BBC canteen. She is dressed in a yellow silk shirt, olive silk culottes, and her hair is blow-dried into a chic French bob. Her stance is straight-backed and assertive. Even before I hear the drama school vowels, her appearance is living proof of June's talents as an actress.

So skilfully does she play the soap's bony old malcontent, hypochondriacal, full of prejudices, continually whingeing over her lot, boring everyone with her biblical tracts, it's difficult to believe that this is the same woman.

Difficult also to believe that after a four-year gap, the BBC has brought Dot — and June — back to the screen. Dot supposedly spent the years of exile with her son in Gravesend, Kent.

"No, I cannot think why they have done it. Couple of new storylines, I guess. They have asked me back a couple of times, but I've been busy producing and acting in a play, *Double D*, written by a wonderful young writer, Matthew Westwood. Have you got that? Yes, just like the bra size."

"Though I do get fed up living downstairs, you know," confides June, striding into the canteen.

"When am I going to return to proper theatre? That's what I want to know. I am never going to be made a dame doing Dot. I'm only doing her until May, though, then I've got my *Grandma* series, *Clayton Close*, with my lovely Eileen Alcock, the pub landlady."

She interrupts herself to warn me: "I talk a lot, dear. A lot of rubbish mostly. An interviewer's dream I am. What's this? Tea in plastic cups." She chases off the publicity woman. "Why didn't you bring out the bone china? Looks much better in the photographs. Oh well, they've only themselves to blame..."

That's how she is. On and on like an express train blithely ignoring the stops, whistling past, without a pause for directions, questions, responses.

"Cigarette, dear? So difficult being a smoker these days. I never go anywhere I can't smoke. Once walked out of a Thai restaurant in San Francisco. Can't remember how many! About 40 a day, maybe an hour, how should I know?"

Ruin the voice of course, smoking. Supposed to turn the face yellow, too. Had to have my teeth capped, it's

the gums, you see, cigarettes dry them up, gives you horse's teeth. Could afford a facelift now, but what's the point at my age? Lying in a coffin, all that expense for nothing.

"When I do theatre I simply tape this back. Same effect. See!" Turning round in her chair, she demonstrates her own version of the non-surgical facelift.

"All you have to do," she says, lifting folds of skin from the side of her neck and pulling them backwards. "Cleans up the contours, lifts the chin."

Firmly, and I mean firmly, I practically shout at her: "June, you left *EastEnders* four years ago, because you disagreed with the way Dot was being rewritten. So what's changed?"

"I shelved Dot simply because I grew weary of struggling to keep her true to her character, which was a nasty old lady, full of bigotry, the sort who thought you got Aids from a tea cup."

Different writers would come along, want to make their mark by trying to clean her up, make her politically correct. In the end, I used to find myself slipping in phrases like "Ooh, I've come over all dizzy." You see, I didn't think she should change. People of that age don't alter the patterns of a lifetime. And I wanted my character to be true to life, like Alf Garnett. No one could say he was politically correct."

"They wanted me to do that show, actually. My children said no, shed hate it. I've been on so many by now, people must think it's my other day job."

Her face curls in distaste: "Can't imagine anything more awful than having to face all those people you've been running from most of your life, kissing, shaking hands. Oh Lord!

"Yes, my face looked quite different when I was younger. The eyes were bigger, lips fuller and of course, I was much more glamorous. And no matter what any one tells you, life is different once you lose your looks. You become diminished as a woman, no matter what you do. Like Vivien Leigh, she knew all about that."

People of that age do not alter the patterns of a lifetime'

"Wanting Dot to be a nice old lady, does not work. Hopefully, they have realised that now. Growing old does not automatically make you mellow. I mean, I think I was a much nicer person when I was young."

Stop! Stop! Just for a minute.

"Yes, well I did warn you." I merely wanted to point out that there is a great deal more to you than playing Dot, isn't there?

"Oh yes. I did me Lady M with [Albert] Funny. He was only 21, and I must admit I looked rather lovely."

Exactly. What I was going on to say was that you spent years with the Royal Shakespeare Company in productions of *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *Twelfth Night*, and that other actors remember you as a great Hedda, a beauty whom Nigel Hawthorne once described as "one of the most beautiful creatures I've seen on

I am not sure I agree. It seems to me, I say, that you've faced an inordinate amount of anguish. More than anyone's allotted quota, if there is such a thing, and yet here you are, full of life, gutsier than those who haven't been through a quarter of what you have."

The only explanation I can offer is



"My face looked quite different when I was younger. I was much more glamorous. Having children put an end to my glamour"

that I'm flexible, like a willow tree. I bend, go with the storms. That way you don't snap."

"Having a lot of adversity in your life when you're young prepares you for later. I lost a baby brother when I was five, then at seven, my favourite sister died. We took death in our stride then. We weren't expected to fall apart or receive counselling. I simply went back to school and got on with things."

"Suicide leaves you with a terrible feeling of guilt, though. My first husband was a terrific actor, touched with genius and supposedly the best of his generation. I hadn't known about his depression, you see. Alan and Yvonne Badel took me in afterwards. Marvellous couple, they

were. Anyway, having been happily married for seven years, always being part of a pair, I got married to Bob 11 months later. Yes, it was a compliment to John, that's how I look at it, too."

Should Dot fall victim to another

team of writers and, in the process,

grow too bland, too politically correct

for her tastes, what then?

"Oh I shall fade in and out as I wish. Or I could leave and never be seen again. You see, I have to be precise and truthful to my character. Drama teaches you certain truths and once ingrained you don't easily throw them off."

Her one remaining ambition is to

work with Mike Leigh. "Put that in, dear."

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Time's up for schools that fail

David Blunkett has a warning for incompetent heads and staff

The Government was elected on a manifesto with education at its heart. The Prime Minister has repeatedly made it clear that our priorities are "education, education and education". Having been given this important brief, my priorities are standards, standards and standards. The aim is to infuse everyone connected with education — teachers, parents, governors and business people — with ambition and purpose. We want schools that match the best in the world. This is the background to my announcement today about failing schools.

We shall always draw attention to the many successes of good schools. We shall search for best practices, celebrate them and seek to spread them across the country. But we absolutely will not tolerate underperformance. This may sound harsh, but if we are genuinely committed to success for every child — and each gets only one chance — then nothing less will do.

Our inheritance from the Conservatives includes almost 300 schools which have been inspected and found to be failing. Of these, the vast majority are improving, some steadily and some at an impressive pace. Those involved at every level deserve congratulations for this achievement. A hard core have been closed, enabling their pupils to transfer to more successful neighbouring schools.

But there are about 15 where progress is limited 18 months or even two years after an inspection, and where the evidence suggests that more might have been done by the school and the local authority to ensure that the pupils receive the education they deserve. The last Government was prepared to let things drift in this way. We are not.

From today, the Government will be calling in the local authorities and schools concerned to meet the Minister of School Standards, Stephen Byers. In the case of any grant-maintained schools on the list, the Funding Agency for Schools will be involved too. We have targeted the local education authorities and schools without political favour. Our concern is for the pupils, regardless of which party controls the local authority in which they live.

We recognise that by doing so we risk provoking controversy, but we have no intention of getting bogged down in sectional conflict with local government or anyone else. Yesterday *The Times* published its list of 38 long-term failing schools. Today we defend those which are making the necessary effort, but we shall be intervening in the other cases.

At the meeting, Stephen Byers will want to hear from the local authorities and schools concerned what they have been doing to put things right and what they plan to do next. No one pretends that it is easy to turn around a long-standing failure, but it is right to expect that everything that can be done is at least tried.

The author is Secretary of State for Education and Employment.

Motherly love

THE reception of David Hockney's latest exhibition has been vicious and sometimes vindictive, but one woman is having none of it: his mother, Laura. Mrs Hockney, 96, divides her time between the family home in Bridlington, East Yorkshire, and a nearby nursing home. Her family now have to keep back newspaper articles criticising her son, because she finds them too distasteful.

"We have to keep a close eye on what she reads," says the artist's elder sister, Margaret, who lives in

Bridlington. "We don't want her seeing anything critical, or anything about David and smoking or sex. That worldly-wise stuff. She gets annoyed if she doesn't think it's true and it's awful. David can do no wrong in her eyes."

Hockney's relationship with his mother is very close. She has been a devoted follower of his career, and he returns home from California at least four times a year. He has spent every Christmas at home since 1981. The top floor of the house in Bridlington has even been

turned into a studio for the family prodigies.

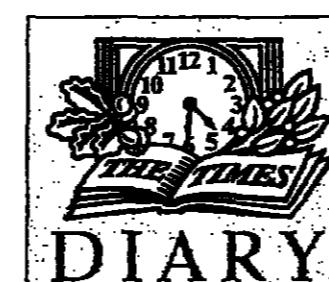
Protecting Laura Hockney from the bad press sounds like full-time work. "We are keeping her on the safe local rag," says her daughter. "and if she does find a national, we have to cut out any nasty pieces beforehand."

Bad time

TAMARA BECKWITH, the most It's less of the "It girl", is still sporting on her chaise longue having been set upon in the King's Road by a hoard of celebrating Cheshire fans. She had just stepped out of her front door at the weekend when she was sprayed with beer by a gang of incited assailants. They began jumping up and down and asking her to recreate a set of topless photographs of her in Cannes which had found their way into a tabloid last week.

Her male companion was pinned up against a wall and eventually rescued by an American friend, giving Beckwith the chance to flee on her high heels. Last night a friend said she was "ill" in bed and unavailable for comment.

• Bobbing in the sea of crumpled linen suits at Sunday's launch of the second River Cafe Cook Book in Hammersmith was Peter



Our party

ALL the bitterness of the election is forgotten in Putney, where romance is on the cards between Ateka Poole, the Independently Beautiful Candidate, and Patrick Robertson, heel-clicker-in-chief to the Referendum Party candidate, Sir James Goldsmith. Robertson, along with various other red-blooded young referendists, invited Miss Poole, 24, to the Farewell to the Referendum Party last Friday.

Though she was prepared to pose semi-clad for her campaign

literature, a ruse which won her 49 votes, Miss Poole is more modest about the attentions she is now receiving. "They asked me to their party and to several other things," she says. Despite sharing their views on a Referendum for Europe, she seems too sensible a girl to get involved with such a caddish lot. "I haven't accepted any of their invitations yet."

• *Classics should take note of an under-used facility at the Hemel Hempstead minimalist hotel in West London: the library. "We don't find that many of the guests actually read the books," says a hotelier, "because they are not in normal, everyday English." In fact, they are mainly Latin and Greek classics, collected according to the bookplates from the Augustine Fathers of Ballyboden and the Archbishop Corrigan. Not the usual reading of the fashion set.*

Anonymous

SHOPPING for bulbs at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday, John Major, who in defeat is becoming ever more like the Peter Sellers character Chancy Gardener, showed that he has a better eye for a bargain than his wife. When the couple found some yellow Moonshine tulip bulbs, Norma thought ten would be enough. Her husband, however, spotted that there was a discount for 50, and ticked the box for the larger order.

When he filled in his form, however, he left the address section empty. "Everyone knows where we live," he reasoned to his wife. "Our address is in all the reference books." Happily, she was able to persuade him that now he is no longer PM, he should stop being so grand and should fill in the form in full, so that the order does not get lost en route to Cambridgeshire.

P.H.S

These are not hard times

Anatole Kaletsky tells Brown not to be a Gradgrind

"Times are hard", said Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, yesterday as the Treasury announced a dramatic improvement in government finances and three days after unemployment fell below 6 per cent. If this is Mr Dobson's idea of hard times, one wonders what he will feel like if interest rates, taxes and starting all start rising, and even the trend in unemployment begins to turn up.

Gordon Brown should think about it too. The Tories warned during the election campaign that Mr Brown would use Labour's first Budget for 18 years to create a profusion of new taxes, going far beyond the windfall levy on utilities announced in its manifesto. The warnings were dismissed by Tony Blair as scaremongering, but they have been made more credible by the bizarre behaviour of the Confederation of British Industry and other business lobbies, which responded to the Labour victory by demanding an increase in tax. Britain's businessmen are begging to be ravished; Mr Brown must be sorely tempted to give them what they want.

In this temptation, the usual roles of the devil and the angel are reversed. "Take advantage of the business community's unexpected passion for higher taxes," whispers the puritan devil on Mr Brown's right shoulder. "This will allow you to fill the Treasury's coffers while you have the chance, in readiness for a public spending binge before the next election." The Keynesian angel on his left shoulder replies: "Tony Blair has talked of a new trust on tax with the British people. Stick to the spirit of this promise; not just to the letter of your legalistic pledges about the rates of income tax."

Which course will the Chancellor choose? Yesterday's extremely upbeat comment from the Treasury in response to the glittering figures on public borrowing suggested that greed may be gaining the upper hand over fear. Is this a signal that the Chancellor has "looked at the books" and is now preparing to blame a large tax increase on the mess the Tories left behind?

If that is what he plans, Mr Brown is making a big mistake. First, it is simply untrue that the Tories have left a mess in the public finances. The long-term course of the national debt is firmly under control. The long-term fiscal outlook in Britain is far better than in Germany, France, Japan or America. Even the much-discussed "demographic timebomb" holds no fears for the British taxpayer, as the OECD found two years ago, in a study which showed that on present trends Britain would repay its entire national debt by 2025, while Germany and France would see theirs double. A tax increase based on the false premise that public finances are out of control would therefore undermine the new Government's reputation for political plain-dealing, and in the present circumstances it could do great economic harm.

Britain's biggest economic problem today is the overvaluation of sterling. Inflows of foreign money, attracted by the world's highest interest rates combined with the strongest public finances, have pushed the pound back to the crippling level of 1990-92. A tax increase now would make British bonds even more attractive, pushing sterling still higher and tightening the noose on the very industrialists who have been foolishly calling for higher tax. In the days before the Bank of England was independent, the Government could have prevented such a vicious circle simply by cutting interest rates. It is this theory that a tighter budget would produce lower interest rates and a lower pound that explains the businessmen's appeals for more taxes. But in the brave new world of central bank independence, the old relationship between taxes, interest rates and sterling is likely to be reversed. The Bank will not cut interest rates automatically in response to higher taxes. In fact, it could easily raise them further after a tough Budget, since a soaring pound initially tends to stimulate consumer demand.

So the result of a tough Budget could be a triple whammy of higher taxes, higher interest rates and a higher pound. This combination might not prevent continued strong consumption before Christmas, but it would certainly create a bust by 1998 — and vindicate John Major's warning that Labour would "blow" the healthy economy. The Tories had bequeathed.

Cynics on the Labour benches may be prepared to risk such a mini-recession in 1998. After all, who wants a strong economy in the first half of a Parliament? Far better politically to have a slowdown next year, followed by a boom in the year or two before the voters have to be faced again. But Labour leaders should beware of such cynical manipulation: it did not save the Tories and it will not save a Labour Government that loses the appearance of economic competence and trustworthiness. The day the Labour Government is forced to announce an increase in unemployment caused by its own unforced blunders could be Tony Blair's Black Wednesday.



Wrong scent, Mr Blair

If Labour really does stand for one nation, it should not exclude country people by banning hunting

There is a black rumour circulating. It fills me with dismay, the first prickings of unease to pierce the golden haze of new Labour euphoria. It says that instead of allowing a Private Member's Bill and a free vote, the Government is preparing to put its official weight behind a ban on hunting with hounds.

The Government will want to hear from those involved in reviving schools how far they have followed advice based on this good practice. We shall urge that where progress is inadequate, the idea of a "fresh start" — closing a school and restarting it with new leadership and a new mission — is considered. This has worked well in a number of instances.

Closure and reopening may have to be considered

It does not have to do this. The Labour manifesto promised only a free vote on foxhunting, not adoption of the Bill. It was not in the Queen's Speech. This inessential frilly pelmet of a measure does not lie anywhere near the heart of new Labour's vast solid project of restoring confidence and humanity to a divided nation. Education, unemployment, the environment, housing, welfare, Europe, prisons all clamour for the clear-eyed idealism and disciplined rigour that Mr Blair's Government has shown so far. Since the morning of that landslide, the nation has been like parched ground gratefully soaking up an unexpected new sense of common purpose.

Why should that Government, everybody's Government, be bound by single-issue lobbyists into putting its gravitas behind the banning of foxhunting? Why should Mr Blair neglect urgent tasks to facilitate the tacky symbolic gesture of criminalising a pastime that amuses hundreds and employs thousands? It can only do political harm. The positive, classless image of his party is an asset that will be useful in uniting us behind tougher reforms. To impose this law would align new Labour irrevocably with one sector of society: the politically correct, prissily sentimental urbanite.

For this is not a blow against some semi-imaginary "upper class" with red faces, red coats and stirrup-cups. It strikes wider than that. A hunting ban backed by the Government would send a message to the countryside that its people were not included in the unity and happiness of May 2. By countryside I do not mean the new rich, nimby idyll nor the quasi-suburban dormitory villages decked with security lights and kerbstones. I mean the older, poorer, remoter, cottagers' countryside, which earns little, says little but still has old ways of tradition and fascination. It asks for no subsidy, no lottery money, no approval, only that its kennels and stables and muddy, cold winter preoccupations should be left alone. If this minority were a tribe of the same

size and antiquity living in Irian Jaya and using blow-pipes, the political correctness of the hunt would be vehement in its defence. Because it is here, under our noses, it is despised. So let me don the Martin Bell outfit, the white suit of sleaziness and disinterested public spirit. I don't hunt and never have. I know what it is to be infuriated by the rudeness of a hunt in a narrow lane, and to gape at the kind of blimpus who — before the sweet reasonableness of Robin Hanbury Tenison and Baroness Mallalieu — used to wreck their case in public debate with arrogant dim braying. Once

when chairing a television debate, I goaded a hunting type to reply to the populist indignation, and all he could say was: "It isn't us who kill the foxes, it's the hinds." Nor do I belong to hunting society: in the days before the election I made myself very unpopular by arguing with horsey neighbours that it would be wicked for them to ignore the wider good of the country and use their vote just to safeguard their hobby. The very word "hobby" marked me as a ghastly outsider who would never understand.

Moreover, I firmly believe that most hunting of live quarry will end anyway during the next decade or so. The social structures that support it are decaying, tastes are changing, drag-hunts and bloodhounds are gaining the interest of a new generation of horsemen. In a nation where the urban majority rules, a successful Private Member's Bill is always just around the corner. This discourages heavy investment in the hunt's animals and people. Some 15,000 dogs will die if the sport goes; nobody wants that number to rise, and packs shrink accordingly. Nobody goes into any of the hunt or gamekeeping trades these days in hope of a long career.

So that is where I stand: I neither hunt nor think the hunt has many

years left. But I can accept the arguments of those who do. The environmental case is strong. Hedges, ditches, meadows, woodland, and wide grassy headlands on agricultural land are all excellent for wildlife and plant diversity, and all desired and therefore maintained — against the agricultural trend — by field sportsmen. As long as you have private landowners at all, it is better for the look and the health of the land that they should have such motives. The argument for rural trades is compelling too: there will always be recreational riders, but without the magnetic fascination of the hunt many farriers, saddlers and liveries stables would close, as surely as the kennels.

If you happen to care about equestrian sports, there are other arguments. The hunt, pouring over fences and ditches, is a uniquely tough, unpredictable, exciting, companionable milieu for a horse. The market for hunters has meant that the British horse has never suffered as much as it might from overbreeding for rarefied uses. Our horses are famous for stamina, versatility, sociability and even temperament, whether they end up on the hunting field or winning medals in competition. Irish horses, of course, are even more noted for these good qualities, because in Ireland the hunt is even deeper in the culture.

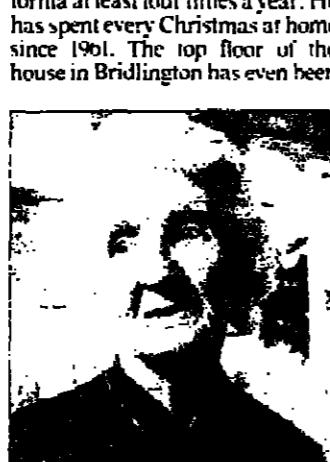
A gainst all these varied benefits to humans, hounds and horses there must be the interests of the fox. Hunts argue, correctly, that foxes would be culled anyway; although admittedly the hunt does kill in a spectacularly nasty way. Almost as nasty as the way pet cats kill birds and mice, pet dogs worry sheep and foxes tear up chickens. But at least the individual fox has a free, wild, natural life right up to the last hour of flight.

Abolitionists, send no more pictures of dead fox cub. The tide of history is with you, and you will almost certainly win in the end. All I ask is that your senseless triumph should not be identified with a Government that could do real, lasting good. And will do, if only it has the sense not to stoop to pick up every meretricious shiny bauble in the gutter.

So the result of a tough Budget could be a triple whammy of higher taxes, higher interest rates and a higher pound. This combination might not prevent continued strong consumption before Christmas, but it would certainly create a bust by 1998 — and vindicate John Major's warning that Labour would "blow" the healthy economy. The Tories had bequeathed.

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David and his mother: no worldly stuff



مكتبة من الأصل

LEADERSHIP VACUUM

Feuds fester when a party lacks direction

Given the Tories' current unhappy position, it is easy to understand why the party wishes to put off hard decisions. The leadership election has not, so far, provided the Conservatives with new hope. The character of the candidates matters but so does a sense of proportion, and the attention paid to the reasons for Derek Lewis's dismissal has obscured an honest examination of the reasons why the Tories were sent packing.

The sight of a party at war with itself, its leading figures indulging in recrimination, is profoundly off-putting for the electorate. Ann Widdecombe may want the best for the Conservative Party but the scrap between her and Michael Howard is doing it no good. The arguments between them damaged Mr Howard's capacity to attack the Queen's Speech and obscure his lucid prospectus for a more flexible EU, outlined in today's Centre for Policy Studies pamphlet, *The Future of Europe*. It is a pity for both the Conservative Party and the country that Mr Howard's future, not Europe's, should be the issue of the hour.

Damaging as this feud is, its prominence is a symptom of a deeper malaise — the Tories' lack of leadership. The vacancy was formally announced on May 2, but the vacuum was apparent well before then. It is the absence of leadership which allows lieutenants the space to squabble. Yet some, including William Rees-Mogg yesterday and correspondents on this page today, still argue for delay in filling the vacancy. They believe that postponement would give time for a fuller inquest, a better choice, and a wider franchise.

They should realise that hands-off treatment for haemorrhages proves fatal. It is hard to see how order can be restored by a caretaker leader whose authority is undermined by his built-in obsolescence. No interim figure, however respected, could

prevent manoeuvring for the succession. Intrigue would occupy energies better directed against Labour. The Conservative Party cannot afford another long period of debilitating uncertainty. The Tories' caretaker would become their undertaker.

Better by far to choose one of the six imperfect but all, in their way, impressive candidates currently on offer. The act of electing a leader would give the party a renewed sense of purpose and direction. Policy could be formulated in confidence.

A prerequisite for electoral success is strong leadership and a sense of purpose and direction, something the Conservative Party has lacked since 1990. John Major always sought to distance himself from his predecessor and his government too often appeared to be in power but not in control of events.

The Conservatives now have at least five years and probably longer to redefine their policies. They must be prepared to speak clearly and openly.

Above all, they must occupy the natural Tory territory in defence of the independence of the nation state and argue the case for an urgent renegotiation of Britain's membership terms of the European Union. They must be careful not to neglect their core beliefs: freedom of the individual, minimum state control and increased private provision.

In my view only John Redwood offers the basic essentials for future electoral success: consistency, coherence and clarity.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP J. DULY,
16 Birchills, High Lane,
Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex.

May 19.

From Sir Anthony Beaumont-Dark

Sir, It does not seem possible that only two weeks ago my party had been in office for 18 years that transformed our country into something of which we could all be proud.

After a massive defeat the Conservative rump left at Westminster has become an undisciplined mob who think they are fit to decide the leadership of our party.

I can tell them it's not on, because about 70 per cent of Conservatives are not represented by them, and if we are to climb back to being electable within ten years our supporters in England, Scotland and Wales must have a say.

The only action for them, instead of the unseemly battle for leadership, is to elect either Norman Fowler or Tom King for a period of at least 12 months,

all this might make the absence of enthusiasm for the latest budget accord even more surprising. However, the muted response is more than justified by the facts. The arrangement offers some prospect of marginal additional restraint in Washington spending. That is worth having. With good fortune and a healthy economy it might meet its stated objective in the narrow timetable set. It does not address — indeed goes to great lengths to avoid — the fundamental factors that will determine the state of US public finances in the next century.

Mr Clinton and his Republican adversaries managed to accommodate each other because the Congressional Budget Office announced that it had underestimated future revenues by a vast \$225 billion margin. At a stroke all the difficult and divisive choices that had deadlocked negotiations dematerialised. The politicians discovered they could lower taxes, preserve popular programmes, and still arrive at the promised land of fiscal equilibrium within a five-year framework. The deal delivered is a pale shadow of the blueprint that Congress bravely backed in 1995. Nonetheless, it has been presented as a dramatic triumph.

This was the best that could be expected between a Democratic President and Republican legislature. But it will do little for the American economy in the short term and less for American politics in the medium term. The real issues that affect the US budget — notably the expensive entitlement programmes of Medicare and Social Security — have been left unresolved. They will have to be addressed after the next presidential contest. By then Bill Clinton will be enjoying his retirement. His successor will have few reasons to thank him for this agreement.

A WHIMPER NOT A BANG

One rather small cheer, at most, for the US budget bargain

Two years ago the bitter struggle over the shape of the American budget absorbed Washington. The newly elected Republican majority in Congress outlined their intention to eliminate the federal deficit entirely by the year 2002. Newt Gingrich and his troops proposed reductions in public spending exceeding \$1 trillion and tax cuts totalling \$245 billion to reach that goal. This supremely ambitious package actually passed Congress despite the obvious political risks involved. It was felled by the veto of President Clinton. That battle shaped American politics throughout 1995 and 1996. Mr Clinton won the war of public relations then and was re-elected in its wake.

The President and Congress have now announced agreement on a plan to reduce public borrowing by \$350 billion over five years and achieve budget surplus by 2002. One might have thought that rejoicing would break out in the American capital. Both Democrats and Republicans in the White House and on Capitol Hill have proclaimed the "historic nature" of their compromise. Commentators and citizens alike have, though, greeted this "landmark" development with supreme indifference.

The virtues of a balanced budget have long held an important place in American political folklore, if not economics textbooks. This year the Senate fell but one vote shy of the two-thirds majority necessary to write the principle into the American constitution. Every American state except Vermont places some sort of similar restriction on its government. The short-lived Confederate States of America, formed by the seceding southern states during the Civil War, also endorsed the concept. The notion is at least as American as apple pie and baseball.

WAITING FOR THE BUSES

They also serve a wrist who only stand and wait

Professor Robert Stanton is a folk hero for the age. He is suing a bus company for the frustration of waiting for a bus, and for the subsequent cost of hiring a taxi for the bus that never came. The taxi fare came to only £2.80, though the lawyers' meters will tick up faster than that. But Professor Stanton is resorting to the courts for breach of contract. The West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority had publicly undertaken through its timetables to provide a bus to convey him from Howarth to Keighley. Even after an unconscionable delay, no bus came. So the professor is enacting the Walter Mitty dream of all who stand hopelessly in queues.

Everything comes to him who waits; except the bus. And when it does come, modern folklore says that it arrives full up, or in convoy with other buses to the same destination; or it drives past without stopping, spraying the queue with puddles from a thunderstorm, weather permitting. Or its driver announces more cheerfully than is decent in the circumstances that his shift ends here and so his bus will travel no farther. More passengers would complain about the service if they could find a conductor to complain to. But modern buses have got rid of conductors, making the driver also collect the fares, thus making the queues slower, the wait longer and the buses later.

Frustration is not a virtue much practised in the modern world of potentially fast transport and instant gratification. Road rage is just one explosion of the frustration built up by fast wheels jammed in stagnant traffic.

The London Underground has experienced some examples of Tube rage. But passengers on buses have learnt to expect the worst, and they are seldom disappointed. They are as much stock characters for waiting for something to turn up as those who have arranged for the gasman to call. Or, it has to be said, as publishers waiting for manuscripts from some professors. Other countries seem to manage their bus timetables and destination boards more efficiently. But the bus pass always seems greener in another system. Railways publish tables of trains running on time, which means up to ten minutes late, and allow delayed season-ticket holders to claim their money back, if they had the patience to fill in the complex forms.

Everybody has always commended patience, but few have been willing to practise it. The first hero of Western literature, while waiting in his equivalent of a queue for the ZEP, said: "Be patient, my soul thou hath suffered even worse delays than this." But his long-suffering resolution would not have stopped Odysseus pacing continuously up and down and looking repeatedly and incredulously at his watch, if he had had one.

So all patient waiters for buses and other things that never come will cheer for Professor Stanton. They may not have the time or patience with the long delays of the law to sue for themselves. But his action speaks for them all. It might just spur the showboaters. But in any case, it provides a more cheerful topic of conversation between strangers stuck hopelessly in the bus queue.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCH
(Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Arts to the Speaker, 1983-87).
The East House, Fisher Street,
Bathgate, Fife, KY1 1JL.
May 12.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Tory party's need to confront 'hard facts' on leadership

From Mr Philip J. Duly

Sir, Amid the growing demand within the Conservative Party for increased membership involvement [letters, May 16, etc], I detect a reluctance to confront the hard facts surrounding the party's unceremonious removal from office. Widening the franchise for leadership elections may have merit but is unlikely to have a major impact on the party's electoral appeal.

A prerequisite for electoral success is strong leadership and a sense of purpose and direction, something the Conservative Party has lacked since 1990. John Major always sought to distance himself from his predecessor and his government too often appeared to be in power but not in control of events.

The Conservatives now have at least five years and probably longer to redefine their policies. They must be prepared to speak clearly and openly.

Above all, they must occupy the natural Tory territory in defence of the independence of the nation state and argue the case for an urgent renegotiation of Britain's membership terms of the European Union. They must be careful not to neglect their core beliefs: freedom of the individual, minimum state control and increased private provision.

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all this might make the absence of enthusiasm for the latest budget accord even more surprising. However, the muted response is more than justified by the facts. The arrangement offers some prospect of marginal additional restraint in Washington spending. That is worth having. With good fortune and a healthy economy it might meet its stated objective in the narrow timetable set. It does not address — indeed goes to great lengths to avoid — the fundamental factors that will determine the state of US public finances in the next century.

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This was the best that could be expected between a Democratic President and Republican legislature. But it will do little for the American economy in the short term and less for American politics in the medium term. The real issues that affect the US budget — notably the expensive entitlement programmes of Medicare and Social Security — have been left unresolved. They will have to be addressed after the next presidential contest. By then Bill Clinton will be enjoying his retirement. His successor will have few reasons to thank him for this agreement.

Yours faithfully,
MARY WILLIS,
9 Harvey Court,
2 Oxford Road, Redhill, Surrey.

Independent Bank

From Professor Ian Markham

Sir, I am deeply bewildered. Anatole Kaletsky [article, Business, May 9] is adamant that Gordon Brown's decision to accede responsibility for interest rates to the Bank of England will lead to a financial crisis which will culminate in the demise of this Government. The obvious question is: if that is the case, why isn't Germany constantly beset with financial crises?

This leads to a wider question. The Times has positioned itself as the main representative of Euroscepticism. Europe, we are repeatedly told, is destroying itself with its federalist ambitions for a single currency. Yet statistics show that the vast majority of countries in mainland Europe are richer than us. How is this possible?

Yours sincerely,
IAN MARKHAM
(Liverpool Professor of
Theology and Public Life),
Liverpool Hope University College,
Hope Park, Liverpool.

Bevin's bust

From Sir David Crouch

Sir, If Robin Cook wants a portrait of Ernest Bevin as the Labour Foreign Secretary he must admire Riddell [letter, May 12]. I suggest he asks the Director of the Tate Gallery for a loan of the magnificent bust of that great statesman by Sir Jacob Epstein, which the Tate holds.

This unique portrait sculpture (I believe there was only one casting) was lent to the House of Commons in 1988 on what was termed a "long loan" but is no longer on display there. Perhaps a similar "long loan" of, say, five years to the Foreign Secretary might be a nice gesture by the Tate Gallery?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CROUCH
(Chairman of the Advisory Committee on the Arts to the Speaker, 1983-87).
The East House, Fisher Street,
Bathgate, Fife, KY1 1JL.
May 12.

and then, having changed the system to give votes to every constituency, see who emerges as a "true" leader.

If they make the wrong move now, I fear the Conservatives may not even end up as the official Opposition in Parliament.

Yours very sincerely,
ANTHONY BEAUMONT-DARK
(Conservative MP for
Selly Oak, 1979-92),
124 Lady Byron Lane,
Knowle, Solihull, West Midlands.
May 16.

From Mr Lawrence T. Roach

Sir, The besetting sin of the British ruling élite is to imagine that the solution to any problem is to be found in choosing the right chap to deal with it. So it is with the Tory party, if Lord Rees-Mogg is to be believed ("Exhaustive volcanoes", May 15).

The plea that the selection of a new Conservative leader should be delayed is well made. First decide what you are going to do and then choose the best man to do it. Only in the governance of Britain is that sensible process commonly reversed, to our continuing disadvantage.

Yours sincerely,
LAWRENCE T. ROACH,
43 Ripon Way,
Borehamwood, Hertfordshire.

May 19.

From Ms Janet Gimson

Sir, William Rees-Mogg's prognosis that John Redwood will not be elected as the new leader of the Conservative Party because he correctly warned that they would lose the election was extraordinary.

Is he confirming that the party has not learnt the lesson of their electoral defeat and is still so sodden with sleaze that a leadership contender cannot be honest and find support?

Yours faithfully,
JANET GIRSMAN,
61 Oak Tree Drive, Totteridge, N20.
May 16.

From Mr Philip Bushell-Matthews

Sir, Can we stop the letters saying that "billy" candidate X or candidate Y will be right for the job? Can we please agree that whoever is finally chosen then becomes the perfect choice? And that all candidates pledge their support in advance for the winner?

Otherwise, the only winner will be Tony Blair — rather than William Hague, who is of course the only possible choice ...

Yours sincerely,
P. BUSHILL-MATTHEWS,
The Manor House,
Harbury, Warwickshire.
May 18.

From Mr David de Matos

Sir, Does the Conservative Party need a leader in Parliament at this time? There are plenty of able senior Tories of sectional, if not sectarian, views available to question the Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,

DAVID de MATOS
(Chairman, Crichel and
Witchampton Branch, North Dorset
Conservative Association).

Abbey Cottage,

Witchampton, Wimborne, Dorset.

May 19.

From Mr William Marshall

Sir, I have bought my last lottery ticket. Why should the lottery and public money subsidise the so-called "British" film industry?

These movie makers are not producing Rembrandts. They are in it for profit and if they can't make it in the international marketplace that's too bad.

Yours,

W. MARSHALL,
41 The Drive, Chingford, E4.

May 15.

Cash no solution for British films

From the Editor of Screen Digest

Sir, However welcome lottery money will be for British film production (report, May 16) the problem lies not so much in the making — last year we produced more films than in any year since 1963 — as in the showing.

Typically, about 50 per cent of all American films shown in this country are given a release on 100 screens or more. The proportion of British films given such an opening varies year by year but is likely to be around 5 per cent. Statistically, it is probable that the smaller films are produced the "blanket" release.

Our analysis appears to demonstrate not only that American

OBITUARIES

MAJOR-GENERAL KEN SHEPHEARD

Major-General Ken Shepheard, CB, DSO and Bar, OBE, Chief Engineer Northern Army Group and BAOR, 1962-64, died on May 11 aged 88. He was born on November 15, 1908.

The two DSOs that Ken Shepheard won represented peaks in the range of his varied and outstanding military career. Both reflected different facets of his abilities and character: the first as a brilliant battle-hardened staff officer in the Western Desert, and the second as a determined and courageous commander of armoured assault engineers in North-West Europe.

The citation for his first DSO was signed personally by Field Marshal Montgomery, because it was unusual to award a DSO to a staff officer. Shepheard had joined General Gertie Tuker's famous 4th Indian Division during the retreat from Gazala to El Alamein in July 1942 as the division's GSOI. He stayed with Tuker throughout the early and final battles of El Alamein; in the pursuit to Tripoli; in the hard fought battles of Mareth and Wadi Akarit; and in the final breakthrough to Tunis, which was carried out by the 4th Indian and 4th British Divisions attacking astride the main road into the city on May 6, 1943.

Part of Montgomery's citation, written before the fall of Tunis, reads: "Lieutenant-Colonel Shepheard has been GSOI 4 Ind Div during the operations at Alamein, Mareth and Akarit. It has been his part to coordinate all planning, and above all, to organise the battlefield. Both the two latter battles were characterised by the difficulty of the operations to be staged, both in mountain country and without any special equipment... His ability, tireless energy and patience have been an inspiration."

Shepheard stayed with Tuker throughout the early fighting in Italy until 4th Indian Division was withdrawn after the failure of the Second Battle of Cassino in February 1944. He was posted back to England as a battle-experienced officer to help in preparation for Overlord.

He did not land on D-Day, but was summoned soon afterwards to take command of 6th Armoured Assault Regiment RE in the beachhead, and to lead them across Europe to the



Baltic. One of the actions he fought on the way was the storming of the Boulogne defences in September 1944. He personally led the principal armoured breaching column. His tank was hit and he was wounded in the head. Despite loss of blood, he refused to be evacuated and continued controlling his column until complete success was achieved some five hours later.

He was fit enough to return to command his regiment in the four winter fighting during Operation "Veritable" in the Rhineland. He then took part in the crossing of the Rhine in March 1945, and led his regiment to Hamburg and on to the Baltic coast. The Bar to his DSO was awarded for his leadership of the regiment throughout the Northwest European campaign.

Joseph Kenneth Shepheard was educated at Merton School, the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, and Christ's College, Cambridge. He was commissioned into the Royal Engineers in 1928. By 1933 he had volunteered, and

been accepted for a five-year tour with the Bengal Sappers and Miners, known in the Indian Army as "God's Own".

One of his first experiences in India, as a very junior officer, was being detailed to organise the bandobast for the Commandant's shikar to hunt tiger. It took several days to deploy the elephants, bullock carts and tents before the burrah sahibs could be mounted on their elephants. Shepheard, being too junior to join the VIP party, watched from a nearby vantage point. Suddenly a female tiger broke cover near him. He bagged his first trophy.

After taking part in two Waziristan campaigns on the North-West Frontier, he became one of the small select band of Europeans to visit Tibet in the 1930s. Trekking with another Sapper officer, Archie Jack, he covered more than 600 miles from India, crossing passes over 17,000 feet high to reach the capital, Lhasa, where they were welcomed by General Sir Harold Briggs, the first Director of Operations in Malaya. He became Briggs's Colonel, General Staff, lead-

which they brought back, are now in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

His Sapper and Miner tour ended in 1938, when he was appointed Adjutant of the 4th Divisional Engineers with whom he went to France in 1939. He was posted back to the Staff College, Camberley, in May 1940 and so missed Dunkirk. He emerged to become Brigade Major in succession to two different infantry brigades in the Western Desert and Iraq before joining 4th India Division, where he was to begin making his name.

After the war, the scene changed as the Army swung to combating Communist-inspired rebellions and terrorism. In 1948, he was appointed GSOI (Operations) in Singapore at the start of the Malayan emergency. Two years later he was sent northwards to Kuala Lumpur to join the newly constituted staff of General Sir Harold Briggs, the first Director of Operations in World Citizenship.

In 1959, he married Maureen Bowen-Colthurst. She and their three daughters survive him.

ina unique joint staff of military, police and civilian administrators who produced the famous Brunei plan that eventually broke the back of the Chinese Communist rebellion. He was appointed OBE in 1949.

The scene changed again with the outbreak of the Korean War. Allied Intelligence suspected that Soviet sabre rattling in the Far East was designed to draw Western forces eastwards and away from an intended Russian assault on Europe. In the crash rearmament programme, armoured divisions were reformed to strengthen BAOR. In 1951, Shepheard was appointed Commander Royal Engineers of the newly raised 1st Armoured Division, which was deployed in the Minden Gap on the Weser in Germany.

In 1953, however, the War Office asked him to take over command of the Commonwealth Engineer Regiment in Korea for which he was eminently suitable and which might have led to a third DSO. He had to refuse for his family's sake: he had been overseas almost continuously since 1933.

He lost nothing by refusing.

Promoted brigadier that year,

he joined the Defence Research Policy Staff in Whitehall as its military member for three years. Its primary task lay in the field of nuclear weapons, and during his time on the staff he attended the American nuclear tests in the Nevada desert. After a year's sabbatical at the Imperial Defence College, he was appointed Chief Engineer of 1st (British) Corps in Germany.

His last two appointments in the Army were as a major-general. In 1960, he became Chief of Staff, Northern Command at York and was appointed CB. In 1962 he returned to Germany as Chief Engineer, Northern Army Group and BAOR. He retired in 1965.

A year later, he became general secretary of the Officers' Association, a post which he held until 1974, helping officers to find civilian jobs. In a long period of failing health, he continued his great interest in the promotion of international understanding among young people through the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

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The Good University Guide

Education Editor John O'Leary introduces our guide to the best colleges for teaching and research, subject by subject

Never mind the age, feel the quality

Knowing where a university stands in the pecking order of higher education is a vital piece of information for any prospective student, but the quality of the course is what matters most. The most modest institution may have a centre of specialist excellence and even famous universities have mediocre departments.

These pages and two more tomorrow focus on the leading universities in the subjects assessed by the higher education funding councils. In the past year, expert assessors have produced official ratings for research in every subject, but the judgments on teaching are still not complete. The tables in this guide cover all the areas in which teaching has been assessed in England. Not all have been completed in Scotland and Wales, but all UK tables have been compiled wherever possible.

The assessments, particularly for research, have become increasingly controversial because some universities have reacted to disappointing results by seeking redundancies among their academic staff. Nottingham University is using research performance as a guide to shedding 50 posts. Exeter is proposing to cut 60 jobs and several other universities are developing similar plans.

At its conference last week, the Association of University Teachers threatened action against universities which used the ratings as a basis for dismissals and condemned the research exercise as bureaucratic and lacking in intellectual rigour. But the two sets of assessments give the official verdict on quality in British higher education and are the yardstick by which departments will be judged.

Our rankings have changed to take account of the latest assessments. The individual subject tables combine the ratings for teaching and research, giving each equal weight. Differences in the gradings used by the Scottish and Welsh funding councils have been accommodated by calculating an equivalent on the English scale.

The tables confirm the dominance of the traditional universities in most areas of higher education. This is to be expected in research, where decades of differential funding have left the former polytechnics

struggling to compete. With some notable exceptions, the traditional universities have established a stranglehold on the top grades.

Less predictably, however, the ratings for teaching usually tell the same story. This is partly because the academics who inspect departments take into account facilities such as library stock, while the traditional universities generally smaller teaching groups also give them an advantage. The new

universities may come into their own as more applied subjects are included, but few of their departments feature at the top of the tables on these pages.

Thames Valley University is the exception which proves the rule, matching Cambridge for top spot in linguistics. TVU collected maximum ratings for both teaching and research, overtaking universities with higher entrance requirements.

Overall, however, Cambridge is again by far the most successful university, with eight top placings and bettered in only five of the subjects in which it offers undergraduate courses. University College London has the next highest number of top finishes, with Oxford, Sheffield, East Anglia, the London School of Economics and King's College London also leaders in more than one subject.

Rankings for architecture, French, geography and social policy vary slightly from those pub-

lished in the book of *The Times Good University Guide*, which is published by HarperCollins. The changes correct errors discovered since the book went to press.

• Reports on departments in England and Northern Ireland are available from the Higher Education Funding Council for England, Northgate House, Colindale, London NW9 5HD. Tel: 0131-313-6500.

• Reports on Welsh departments from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, Lamourne House, Cardiff Business Park, Llanishen, Cardiff CF4 5GL. Tel: 01222-761861.

• Reports on universities in Scotland can be ordered from the Scottish Higher Education Funding Council, Donaldson House, 97 Haymarket Terrace, Edinburgh EH12 5HD. Tel: 0131-313-6500.



Meeting the challenge: students on the campus at the University of Sheffield, which features in the top 20 in most subjects and tops the league in architecture, Russian and mechanical engineering

ARTS

My father's dream.
Zoë Wannamaker
on the opening
of the Globe Theatre.

THE TIMES

INTERFACE

Technology's role
in saving the
rain forests.

IN TOMORROW'S TIMES

FOOTBALL

England
prepare to take on
South Africa
this Saturday.

CRICKET

A preview of the first
one-day international
between England
and Australia.

CHANGING TIMES

ANTHROPOLOGY



LAST December's research rankings confirmed Cambridge's domination of anthropology. The university boasted the only department with the coveted five-star grade, denoting international excellence.

Four universities have overtaken Oxford since last year. Brunel, Manchester, University College London and the London School of Economics were awarded five stars for research, to Oxford's four.

Anthropology is one of the smallest subjects to have been fully assessed in England and Northern Ireland. There are, as yet, no ratings for teaching in Scotland or Wales, although Cardiff and Swansea have been graded as satisfactory for joint sociology and anthropology degrees.

All but three of the 14 departments in England and Northern Ireland were considered excellent for teaching. Queen's University, Belfast, Thames Valley University and Goldsmiths College, London, were rated satisfactory.

Cambridge registered the biggest rise in this year's table — from tenth to second — after improving its research rating. The subject is taught in three joint degrees, with psychology, sociology and communications. Assessors who judged the teaching excellent found the course "intellectually demanding and stimulating", the students coming from an "impressive range of backgrounds".

The subject is taught mainly in traditional universities, but Oxford Brookes matched Kent and Sussex for ninth place after improving its research rating.

Most institutions were said to have exemplary arrangements for practical training with rigorously monitored placements offices.

Teaching quality was assessed in 1994 and gradings of excellent awarded to Bath, Cambridge, East London, Glasgow School of Art, Greenwich, UCL, Newcastle, Nottingham, Sheffield, Strathclyde and York. In the latest Research Assessment Exercise,

three institutions received the 5th rating reserved for departments showing international excellence in a majority of areas. Cambridge and Sussex Universities and the Courtauld Institute of Art. The 5-rated departments were at Essex, Leeds, SOAS, UCL and the Open University.

ARCHITECTURE



CAMBRIDGE retains its position at the top of the table but is joined this year by the strong departments at Sheffield and University College London.

The quality of teaching on architecture courses has been found to be universally good by funding council assessors.

Institutions were said to be coping well with the changing nature of the discipline. The English funding council commented: "Architecture courses have a strong professional focus and students are able to enjoy a lively and often varied educational experience."

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1 Cambridge, UCL, Sheffield

4 Cardiff

5+ Newcastle, Nottingham, York

8 Bath

9 Strathclyde

10 Greenwich

11 East London

12 Liverpool

13 Oxford Brookes

14 Robert Gordon

15 Queen's (Belfast)

16 Brighton, Liverpool, JMU, Portsmouth, Kingston, Manchester

(Total Institutions: 29)

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT



THE award of the highest possible grading for research has enabled the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology to claim top spot in this year's table.

The only other university to earn a 5th rating with UMIST was Lancaster, helping it to hold fourth place.

Warwick and the London School of Economics, joint top last year, share second place after receiving ratings of 5 for their research.

Some of the well-known business schools are omitted from the list because they do not provide undergraduate teaching. The London Business School was the only other institution among 96 surveyed in the latest Research Assessment Exercise to gain a 5th grade along with UMIST and Lancaster.

Bath owes its climb from ninth to fifth place on a 5th rating for research, indicating international excellence in some areas and national excellence in most others. The same grading was given to the departments at Cardiff, Southampton, Strathclyde and Warwick.

The English funding council

reported that business and management studies were "driving" in higher education institutions, against a background of significant increases in student numbers and at a time of pressure on resources. Students can select from a range of courses.

Features judged to have excellent teaching included the provision of practical experience, strong pastoral support and high completion and employment rates of students.

1 UMIST

2 LSE, Warwick

4 Lancaster

5 Bath

6 City, Manchester, Nottingham

9 Strathclyde

10 Loughborough

11 Edinburgh, Imperial

13 Cranfield, St Andrews

15 De Montfort

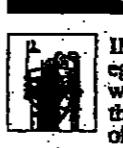
16 Surrey

17 Kingston

18 Bradford, Cambridge, Keele

(Total Institutions: 80)

CHEMICAL ENGINEERING



IMPERIAL College, London, is rewarded for earning the highest rating of any British institution for research excellence, with top position in the table for chemical engineering.

Cambridge, in second place, actually received a slightly better score than Imperial from the funding council for the quality of its undergraduate teaching. But Cambridge's 5th grade for research was topped by Imperial's 5th.

Bath, Birmingham, UMIST and University College London also recorded grades of 5 for research, while Loughborough and UMIST matched Imperial's teaching score.

The overall quality of chemical engineering courses was found to be high by the English funding council when it assessed undergraduate teaching.

The accreditation of courses by the Institute of Chemical Engineers was considered important for preserving standards, although its demands limited the flexibility of undergraduate programmes.

Praise for using industrialists to give specialist lectures and tutorials, especially in the

final year, were given.

The award of first and upper-second class honours varied among institutions from 18 per cent to 70 per cent.

Assessors found that, overall, chemical engineering leads to "good prospects for employment in industry, commerce and academia" for its graduates.

1 Imperial

2 Cambridge

3 UMIST

4 Bath

5 Loughborough

6 UCL

7 Queen's (Belfast)

8 Birmingham

9 Newcastle

10 Bradford

11 Nottingham

12 Surrey

13 Leeds

14 Aston

15 South Bank

16 Teesside

(Total Institutions: 16)

THE TIMES

The Good University Guide

CHEMISTRY

OXFORD and Cambridge retain their place in joint pole position for chemistry after gaining the only two superior 5th grades for the quality of their research. Both universities, which have the largest chemistry research departments in the country, at 72 and 55 staff respectively, also recorded gradings of excellent for their undergraduate teaching.

The marginally lower score awarded to Nottingham for not entering all its chemistry staff in the Research Assessment Exercise sees it slip into tenth place from third in this year's very competitive table. It is replaced in third spot by four institutions with excellent teaching records which also gained a 5-rating for research after entering 95 per cent or more of departmental staff for assessment.

Three former polytechnics were awarded a grading of excellent for their undergraduate

chemistry teaching by the funding councils: Glasgow Caledonian, Nottingham Trent and Robert Gordon Universities.

The institutions judged ex-

cellent were characterised by a

sensible range of course material

which allowed the students to study in real depth.

1- Cambridge, Oxford

3- Bristol, Edinburgh, Leeds, Imperial

7- Hull, Leicester, St Andrews

10- Southampton, Durham, Nottingham

13- Cardiff, Manchester, Strathclyde

16- Glasgow

17- Bangor

18- Heriot-Watt

19- Bath, UCL, Reading, Sheffield, York

(Total Institutions: 66)

COMPUTING

THE computer science department at Cambridge is joined at the top by two others which matched its 5th performance in the Research Assessment Exercise: Warwick and York.

Oxford, equal top last year, drops to equal fifth because, although it gained a 5th for research, it did not enter as many departmental staff to be assessed as those above it in the table.

Other 5th scores, signifying research of international excellence in most areas, were given to Glasgow and Imperial, while grade 5 was earned by Bath, Bristol, Dundee, Edinburgh, Lancaster, Manchester, Newcastle, Southampton, Sussex and UCL.

Just eight out of more than 100 computer science departments have been judged as excellent for their undergraduate teaching. Along with the three in top place, these were Edinburgh, Glasgow, Imperial College, Manchester and Oxford.

This was the lowest proportion of any subject assessed by

(Total Institutions: 43)

ENGLISH

BOTH Oxford and University College London scored maximum points for English, having entered all their academics in last year's Research Assessment Exercise. Cambridge, which was the other university with a 5th research department, held some staff out.

English is one of the most competitive subjects in terms of academic ratings as well as entrance requirements for undergraduates. Only six universities out of 58 – Birmingham, Leeds, Sussex, York, Cardiff and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London – reached the next rung of the research ladder.

Teaching was judged more generously by the funding councils' assessors. In England, more than a third of the departments were rated as excellent. Two in Wales received a similar accolade. Ratings for Scottish universities are yet to be published, but the absence of departments north of the border from the top two research categories

means that the head of our table will remain unchanged.

English has also seen some of the few unsatisfactory ratings for teaching. Overall in England, funding council assessors found diversity of approach and called for better use of information technology.

The best departments attracted enthusiastic students and promoted skills that would be useful in employment.

1- UCL, Oxford

3- Leeds

4- Cambridge

5- Leicester, Warwick, Nottingham, Southampton

9- Birmingham, Sussex, Queen Mary, Sussex, York

13- Bristol, Durham, Lancaster, Liverpool, Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam

19- Newcastle, Queen's (Belfast)

(Total Institutions: 58)

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

READING and the University of East Anglia top our ranking for environmental sciences as the only departments with a 5th rating for research. They were already among 16 universities rated excellent for teaching.

The area, which includes meteorology, oceanography and ecology, is one in which the new universities are well represented.

Plymouth, with a well-established reputation in oceanography, is the leading example, in fifth place, but Hertfordshire, Greenwich and Manchester Metropolitan all appear in the top ten.

The new universities' emphasis on teaching was reflected in the scarcity of top research grades in the latest assessment. Only third-placed Lancaster achieved a grade five, with Edinburgh, Imperial College, London, and the University College of North Wales, at Bangor, the only grade fours.

Reading, which moved up from last year's second place, was praised by assessors for the quality of its staff, modern curriculum and good library facilities. The report on its

5th from the first

If I don't get a degree, I'll sue

Are universities legally bound to provide what they promised, asks

Hugh Thompson

Didn't get the degree you wanted? Course was not what you expected? Didn't think much of the teaching? Didn't get the job you expected? Didn't get the standard of accommodation you were promised? Felt the whole university experience was a waste of time? Was your course and campus oversold? Well, why not sue?

After all, on legal aid you have little to lose and why shouldn't universities, like the health and social services, holiday companies, retailers and banks, have a legal duty to provide what they promise?

According to some reports there are hundreds of student-versus-university cases going through the system. Students claiming damages for getting an inferior grant, loss of earnings, poor facilities, becoming depressed, lack of job placements, the difference between what is being offered and what was provided – especially relevant with modular courses. That's on top of the almost ritual cases of students suing for poor grades.

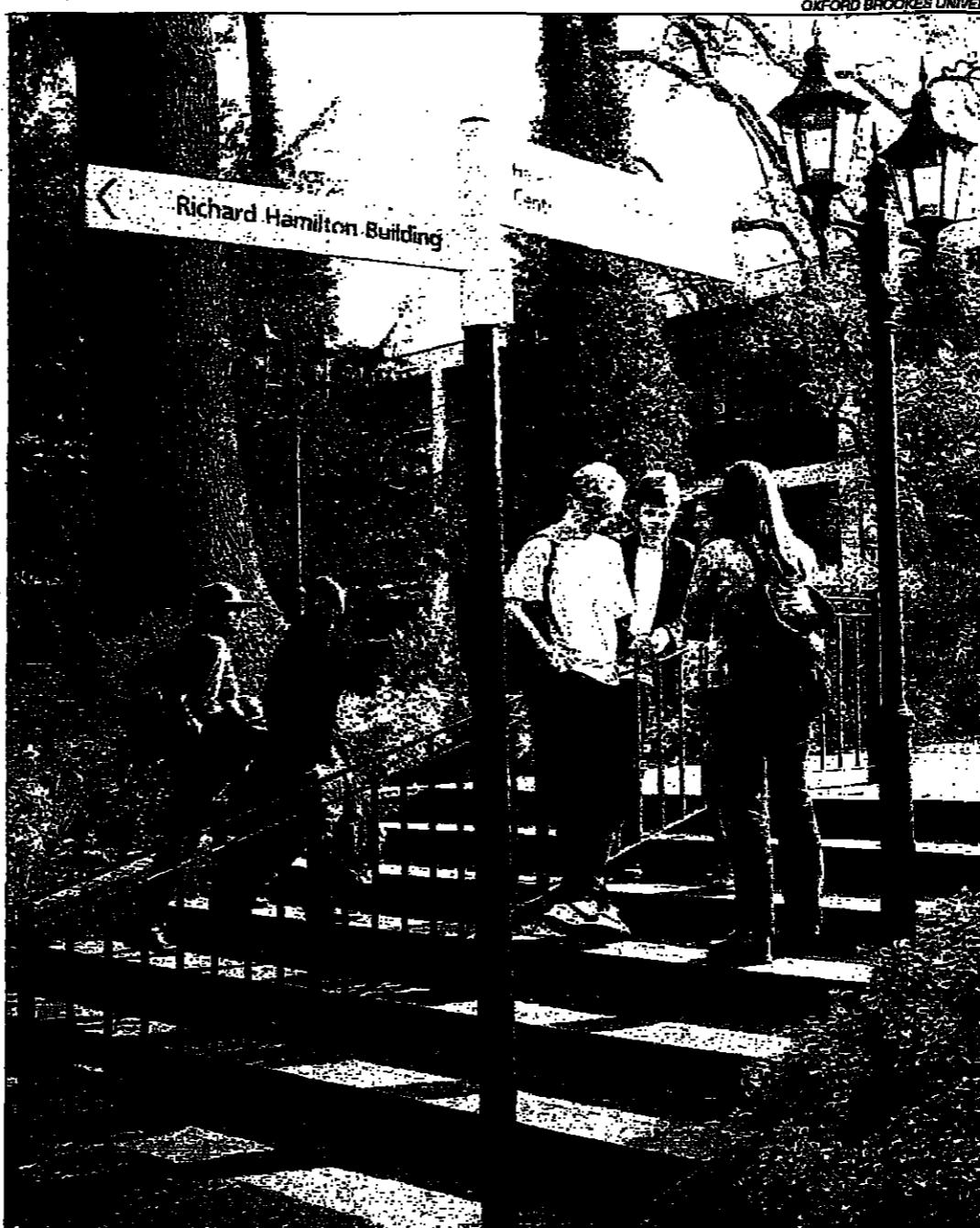
In the eight years that Professor Roderick Floud has been provost of London Guildhall University the typical numbers of threatened or actual legal actions have risen from one or two a year to around a dozen. The vast majority concern students threatening action over bad examination results. However, none of these cases ran its course and only three were settled out of court, the most significant when a student claimed she had been verbally abused by a lecturer.

Professor Floud says Guildhall's experience is close to the norm for new universities, which do not have the older universities' appeals procedures.

"We are having to divert considerable management and financial resources to resist these claims.

Not only are these cases very time-consuming but we have to take expensive legal advice to make sure our defence is sound."

Lawyers specialising in this area



Oxford Brookes University: "It is healthy that students are exercising their rights," says the Pro-Chancellor

say they are surprised that it has taken this long for this situation to develop. If a lawyer, surveyor, architect or doctor is negligent, they expect to pay compensation. So it should be with teachers.

"At the moment the situation for the universities is manageable, but

unless they are more careful it could get out of control, as it has in other areas of professional life," says Stephen Hocking, a partner with London law firm Beachcroft Stanleys. "It's all part of the trend of consumers in all walks of life demanding their rights."

their exposure to legal risks."

One way suggested by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals is for students, before they start a course, to sign a contract which requires all disputes to go to arbitration (as in many areas of commerce) rather than go to expensive law. This idea was put forward by Professor Clive Booth, Pro-Chancellor of Oxford Brookes University, who says: "It is healthy that students are exercising their rights. Complaints have a positive influence on quality."

However, Professor Booth adds: "Especially with those trying to influence their degree results, there is an element of trying it on. We have too many threatening legal action in an unprincipled way as a means of trying to raise their degree grades." The Nolan Committee has suggested binding arbitration to weed out the frivolous cases, thereby saving unnecessary legal costs."

Lawyers quote four and five-fold increases in student cases in the past year. Students seek redress for tutors who have missed tutorials, failed to mark work, or, in one case, refused to talk to his PhD student.

Where modules are offered but staff leave and the university cannot provide a replacement, students are on firm legal ground. One lawyer quotes a student who, on a computing and Spanish degree, found after two years she had done no Spanish. Another student doing environmental sciences felt that without the advertised pollution module, the course was professionally devalued.

But some of these cases are the proverbial hot air which pervades all student affairs. The National Union of Students, which normally takes a radical stand, states: "This is not a major problem. Most complaints are handled internally. Today's students are more aware and are confident but when it comes to serious cases actually getting to the courts, we are only talking about a handful a year, if that."

Nicola Hart, head of the education team at Birmingham solicitors Martineau Johnson, says: "There is no question that some lawyers are trying to talk this whole area up. In fact, most of these complaints are resolved long before they come to litigation. If there is a positive in all this, it is that all universities have had to harden up their internal complaints procedures so as to head off these cases before they become too expensive."

FRENCH

TWO new universities – Portsmouth and Westminster – achieved the best results in last year's review of teaching in French. But University College London's 5th grading for research allowed it to overhaul its 29 rivals.

Oxford and Cambridge, which, together with Nottingham, also reached the top research grade, were among 45 institutions teaching French which chose to be assessed on modern languages as a whole. They are not included in this table, although Northumbria and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London, matched the best scores for teaching quality.

Assessors found the standard of teaching at English universities to be generally high, although they regretted the limited opportunities for part-time study. More than half the students are female and more than half are awarded first or upper-second class degrees.

Most language laboratories were considered well-resourced, but assessors found significant deficiencies in a minority of libraries, often in new universities.

In most universities, the emphasis has switched from literature to language, with the period spent abroad assuming greater importance. Entrance requirements are extremely variable, with some universities enjoying high demand from applicants, while others struggle to fill their places.

1- UCL

2- Warwick

3- Durham, Exeter, Leeds

6- Sussex

7- Sheffield

8- Reading, Royal Holloway

10- Hull, King's, Queen's (Belfast)

13- Bristol

14- Liverpool

15- Westminster

16- Manchester

17- Nottingham

18- Leicester

19- Ulster

20- Birmingham

(Total Institutions: 30)

GEOGRAPHY

THE FOUR top universities for geography have all scored maximum points for teaching and research. The introduction of research has enabled Bristol, Cambridge, Durham and University College London to pull away from Oxford, now in eighth place.

Assessors of teaching in geography were among the most generous with top ratings. Thirty institutions, including three colleges of higher education, were judged to be excellent. Cheltenham and Gloucester, Canterbury Christ Church and the Liverpool Institute joined three former polytechnics on the top rung.

Of the new universities, only Coventry and Portsmouth make our top 20, however. The reason is that last December's research ratings reverted to type. Christ Church joined

three new universities and several other colleges on the bottom grade with virtually no research of national excellence, while the traditional universities ruled the roost.

Leeds, Newcastle, Royal Holloway, Sheffield and Southampton all had some internationally-rated research.

1- Bristol, Cambridge,

2- Durham, UCL

3- Leeds, Sheffield,

4- Southampton

8- Edinburgh,

9- Lancaster,

10- Nottingham,

13- Birmingham, Exeter,

14- Kings, Queen Mary,

15- Manchester,

16- Reading,

17- Royal Holloway,

18- Swans

(Total Institutions: 60)



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THE TIMES

2

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY

ARTS

Glyndebourne opens with a Puccini treat
PAGES 36-38

LAW

A farm couple's battle for a habitable home
PAGES 41-43

SPORT

Australians retain faith in magic of Slater's touch
PAGES 49-56

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES 54, 55

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY MAY 20 1997



Air smiles: but Bob Aylng's sunny visage yesterday may be darkened if British Airways cabin crew vote in favour of industrial action next month

OFT investigates Dixons over 'strong-arm tactics'

By ROBERT MILLER

DIXONS, Britain's largest electrical retailer, could face a formal inquiry by the Office of Fair Trading over alleged "strong-arm tactics" to have rivals excluded from out-of-town shopping centres.

The high street chain, headed by Sir Stanley Kalms, has been accused of using an "unfair and anti-competitive" strategy to force developers of out-of-town centres to deny floor space to Dixons' competitors. Angry rivals claim that consumers are being forced to pay much higher prices for personal computers, videos and other electrical goods at shopping parks because of a lack of competition. In documents seen by *The Times*, the

OFT wrote to many of Dixons' rivals asking for information last month.

The investigation follows other OFT inquiries into Dixons' activities, notably on the selling of extended warranties on electrical goods at its stores. This recommended in December 1994 that a code of practice be introduced.

The code is currently being reviewed by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The OFT letter, signed by Donald Mason of the Competition Policy Division, said: "We are considering a complaint against Dixons Group (DG) concerning its policy in regard to leasing space on retail parks. In many cases it is a condition of DG's taking space on a retail park that the retail park landlord does not

let space to any other, or to more than one other, retailer of electrical goods or personal computer equipment". The OFT sought reply by May 9, but is still waiting for some to return.

Simon Fox, chief executive of Office World, filed a complaint with the OFT after he was told by the developers of the Festival Park in Stoke-on-Trent that his company could not rent space because if it did Currys, a subsidiary of Dixons, would pull out of a planned shop leasing deal. Mr Fox complained to Dixons but was told in a reply from Martin Meech, group property director of Dixons: "We are ensuring that competition to our operation is kept to a minimum."

Mr Fox said: "We have

grown from nothing to 50 stores in seven years because we offer our goods at competitive prices. Overall consumers who shop for computers and electrical equipment centres at out-of-town sites must be paying millions of pounds more because of the lack of competition."

Michael Kraftzman, a director of Tempo, another electrical and computer retailer, said: "We have passed details of six specific instances to the OFT where we believe Dixons has used its muscle to keep us out. If you have three or four competitors on the same site it is good for consumers."

Helen Jones, company secretary of Kingfisher, which owns Woolworths, B&Q and Comet, the electrical retailer, and has responded to the OFT

Commentary, page 31

inquiry, said last night: "Seeking restrictions on who can lease out-of-town sites is a tactic which doesn't work for very long."

Dixons does not deny that it has insisted on certain restrictive clauses being included in rental contracts. The company said: "Dixons, like any other retailer, is free to negotiate the terms on which it is prepared to invest in these developments and, as you would expect with any business, we will seek the best terms possible when we negotiate a lease. Sometimes this involves negotiating lease restrictions with our landlords, a practice which is not unique to Dixons or to electrical retailing."

gauge problems at Heathrow Terminal One, but said the situation is under control. The company blamed BA, which is upgrading baggage systems, but faces separate difficulties with BA baggage handlers. Some 2,800 workers in Aircraft Services at Heathrow face a two-year pay freeze, the introduction of better working practices and lower wage rates for new recruits.

BA carried 38 million passengers last year. Passenger yield on mainland scheduled services improved 1.3 per cent, but cargo yield fell 8.8 per cent, hit by excess capacity and fierce price competition. Mr Aylng said BA is looking to expand its non-core activities.

The shares fell 24p to 736p. Fully diluted earnings per share increased 14.9 per cent to 50.8p. A final dividend of 10.8p (9.8p) a share makes a total of 15.05p (13.65p).

Bonuses fail to fend off attack on BA staff relations

By JON ASHWORTH

BRITISH AIRWAYS revealed a bumper bonus package averaging £1,100 for its 58,000 employees yesterday but was accused of having a "19th century mill-owner approach to industrial relations" ahead of its cabin crew balloting over industrial action.

Pre-tax profits rose 9.4 per cent to £640 million in the year to March 31, leaving BA's UK-based staff with an average bonus of almost £1,100 each, or about 3.3 weeks' basic pay. Employees are to share a £94 million bonus, comprising £89 million in shared profits, plus ten free BA shares each.

The windfall comes as BA cabin crew prepare to vote on industrial action. Members of the British Airways Stewards and Stewardesses Association (BASSA), part of the T&G union, are protesting over new terms and conditions. The ballot result will be announced on June 27.

Bill Morris, general secretary of T&G, attacked BA after it closed the BASSA offices at Gatwick and Heathrow.

BA hopes to learn soon whether its alliance with American Airlines will be cleared to proceed. Bob Aylng, BA's chief executive, said he had been "picking up the threads" with government ministers and hoped the matter would be treated "with all due dispatch". Rival airlines, led by United Airlines and Lufthansa, combined last year to create the Star Alliance, lending increased urgency to BA's calls.

BA's operating profits fell 25 per cent to £546 million (£728 million), dragged down by a 20 per cent rise in fuel costs, together with a £127 million exceptional restructuring charge. However, a £125 million write-back of a provision against BA's stake in USAir, soon to be disposed of, largely cancelled out the shortfall. BA wrote down the value of its

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	4645.2	(-48.7)
Yield	3.51%	
FTSE All share	22111.91	(-19.07)
New York	20489.75	(+15.02)
Dow Jones	7188.80	(-5.21)
S&P Composite	830.21	(+0.46)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.94%	(5.94%)
Long Bond	9.61%	(9.61%)
Yield	6.91%	(6.91%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.02%	(6.02%)
One long gilt future (Jun)	113.74	(113.74%)

STERLING

New York	1.6377*	(1.6365)
London	1.6386	(1.6375)
DM	2.7973	(2.7970)
Fr	3.4740	(3.4744)
SF	2.3403	(2.3241)
Yen	150.37	(188.84)
E Index	99.2	(98.6)

SOVEREIGN DOLLAR

London	1.7100*	(1.6925)
DM	2.6425	(2.6285)
Fr	3.4207*	(3.4200)
SF	2.3403	(2.3241)
Yen	116.03*	(115.70)
S Index	102.4	(101.9)

NORTH SEA OIL

Tokyo close Yen	116.33	
Brunei 15-day (Aug)	\$20.15	(\$20.20)

GOLD

London close	\$341.25	(\$344.75)
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* denotes midday trading price

Surplus knocks PSBR forecasts

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE government borrowing requirement this year looks likely to be significantly lower than forecast after data published yesterday showed the public sector running a budget surplus in April.

The Government was able to repay £36 million of debt last month compared with a deficit of around £3 billion in April last year. The City had been expecting a public sector borrowing requirement in the region of £1.4 billion.

Economists predicted that Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, would be able to make a downward revision to the Government's PSBR forecast, which stands at £19.2 billion, in the mini-Budget expected next month. But the Treasury played down the figures, saying they had been flattered by one-off windfalls, including around £1.25 billion of receipts from the sale of the Housing Corporation loan-book and the Ministry of Defence married quarters.

The data was well received on the foreign exchanges with the pound closing up nearly two-and-a-half pence at DM2.7981. Sterling's trade weighted index also climbed over half a point to 99.2. But the FTSE 100 fell 48.7 points to close at 4,645.2.

VAT receipts were up 41.5 per cent to £1.4 billion, although the Treasury estimated that around £1 billion of this was because of larger companies paying their VAT bills on a quarterly basis. Income tax receipts rose 10.6 per cent and social security contributions were up 11.6 per cent.

Rowland's role key to Lonrho

By PAUL DURMAN

TINY ROWLAND, ousted two years ago from Lonrho, has re-emerged at the heart of the latest wranglings to decide the future of the African mining group that he created.

Contrary to expectations of some analysts, Mr Rowland, 79, has been re-elected to the board of Ashanti Goldfields, the Ghanaian mining company that seems to hold the key to a £2 billion merger of Lonrho with JCI, a South African mining company headed by Nick Morrell, his successor as Lonrho chief executive.

Analysts believe the talks may flush out a bid for Lonrho from mining groups such as Anglovaal or BHP of Australia. Mr Rowland's reappointment surprised Charles Ker, analyst with Paribas Capital Markets, who had been

Watchdog calls truce with ScottishPower

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE electricity regulator has backed down from a fight with ScottishPower that could have delivered a £15-a-year cut in household bills. Instead, Professor Stephen Littlechild agreed to a £6-a-year bill cut in order to end a protracted legal battle between the two.

The watchdog's office denied that Professor Littlechild had climbed down. A spokeswoman said he had ensured benefits for customers when the next stage in the clash — a possible House of Lords challenge by the regulator — may have yielded nothing.

Analysts believe the talks may flush out a bid for Lonrho from mining groups such as Anglovaal or BHP of Australia.

The usual channels, page 33



Littlechild: "good deal"

similar to Hydro-Electric, the other Scottish electricity company. ScottishPower has been fighting to be treated the same as Hydro-Electric. It successfully challenged the regula-

tor's 1994 price formula at the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and in 1995 won an overhaul of the way Scottish prices are compared with English generating prices.

The regulator refused to treat ScottishPower on the same basis as its neighbour.

ScottishPower sought a judicial review, which decided in favour of the regulator. An appeal by ScottishPower was upheld in February. Then Professor Littlechild said he would seek leave to appeal at the House of Lords. Yesterday, he said it was a "good deal" and ScottishPower's customers would see a further cut in their bills "at least 2 per cent later this year".

ScottishPower said it had saved about £10 million on the cuts it may have had to make.

The disposal is complicated by the fact that the Granada

Savoy refit near to completion

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE Savoy Group is on the verge of completing its £62 million refurbishment project and should reap the full benefits in the second half of the year. The luxury hotels company told its family who possess voting control of the company.

Sir Ewen Fergusson, the Savoy's chairman, was unable to elaborate on the future of Granada's 63 per cent stake in the company, which is valued at around £200 million.

Discussions are understood to have begun on the disposal of the stake, which was acquired after Granada's takeover of Forte, but a final decision may take until the end of the year.

The disposal is complicated by the fact that the Granada

JOHN BROWN.

Gamekeeper to Queen Victoria.
A steady influence during uncertain times for

Parties agree terms in Barings bond row

By JON ASHWORTH

BONDHOLDERS in the collapsed Barings group are a step closer to winning at least some of their money back after a breakthrough in negotiations with the Barings administrators.

Nigel Hamilton, Alan Bloom and Maggie Mills of Ernst & Young announced yesterday that agreement over a settlement with bondholders had been reached in principle. This follows a year of negotiations overseen by the City Disputes Panel, which seeks to act as an alternative to the courts in resolving disputes.

Both sides have agreed terms, and the settlement will now be put to the courts for ratification. There is speculation that bondholders could receive 50 to 60 per cent of their money back, while those who subscribed to a £100 million issue of subordinated notes could see 25p in the pound.

The two main issues of bonds occurred in 1983 and 1994. All three classes of bondholders initiated legal action against the defunct Barings plc and its directors, as well as advisers to the issues, including Barings Brothers, Hoare Govett, Cazenove and Barclays de Zoete Wedd. They alleged mis-selling, and were pressing for compensation under the Financial Services Act (1986).

The losers included elderly investors lured by the high rates of interest on offer, and life and pension funds such as Scottish Amicable and Legal & General. Another victim was Downside, Britain's oldest Roman Catholic public school, whose charitable trust lost £50,000. Father Charles, the Abbot of Downside, has campaigned tirelessly to replenish the charity's coffers.

Holders of the 1994 notes are likely to fare the best. This money was lent on to one of the companies in the Barings securities arm that is still trading, and investors can expect to receive a more generous offer. Thousands of bondholders lost £275 million in the collapse.



Richard Anderson, left, and Sid Taylor, respectively chief executive and chairman of Independent Parts, the components group, increased pre-tax profits from £3.7 million to £4.2 million in the year to March 31. The total dividend rises from 6.0p to 6.2p after a maintained 4p final. Earnings fell from 12.6p to 12.2p. The group said that it managed a strong sales performance in tough markets. Sales were up from £20.3 million to £25.6 million

Sterling claims another casualty as Glaxo issues profit warning

By ERIC REGULY

THE strong pound continued to take its toll of Britain's leading companies when Glaxo Wellcome, the world's largest pharmaceuticals group, gave warning yesterday that profits will decline by 5 per cent this year if sterling remains at current levels.

Sir Colin Corness, chairman, told the company's annual shareholders' meeting that the strong pound wiped

out the 10 per cent rise in sales in the first four months of this year. Glaxo shares fell 31.2p, or 2.6 per cent, to 1251.2p as a result.

Most analysts left their profit forecasts unchanged in spite of the currency warning. Glaxo said early in the year that the strength of sterling would cut into profits, but did not put a figure on the expected damage.

John Murphy, analyst at Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment firm, is still calling for pre-tax profits of £2.81 billion, or 54p a share, this year. In 1996, the company reported pre-tax profits of £2.96 billion, or 56.7p a share.

The forecast fall in year-on-year profits is entirely because of the loss of US patent protection on Zantac, the anti-ulcer treatment that is Glaxo's bestselling product, in the summer. Sir Richard Sykes, chief executive, said Zantac

could lose as much as 90 per cent of its US sales. In the first four months, total Zantac sales declined 7 per cent as new products will more than offset Zantac's market share.

Zantac accounted for almost 50 per cent of Glaxo's sales in 1990. The figure has since fallen to 20 per cent and Sir Richard said generic competition could force down Zantac's share to as little as 10 per cent.

Novopharm, the Canadian drugs manufacturer, will launch

the first generic form of Zantac, known as ranitidine hydrochloride, in the US on July 9. Glaxo is gambling that new products will more than offset Zantac's market share.

Sir Richard said that Glaxo will achieve single-digit sales growth in 1997 and 1998 and return to double-digit growth in 1999 as new drugs take up the slack. Sales in the first four months of this year were £2.75 billion, up 10 per cent in constant exchange-rate terms.

Sales of other products were up 15 per cent in the period, with respiratory, anti-viral, and central nervous system products leading the way.

With the decline of Zantac, respiratory products now form the company's largest therapy area.

The annual meeting marked the retirement of Sir Colin. He was succeeded as chairman by Sir Richard, who retains the chief executive title. Sean Lance, the chief operating officer, is to become chief executive in a year.

AMP prepares new UK bid

By CAROLINE MERRELL AND RACHEL BRIDGE

AMP, the Australian life insurer that owns Pearl Assurance and London Life, has appointed DLJ Phoenix, a mergers and acquisitions specialist, to work on a bid for another UK life company.

NPI, Friends Provident and Norwich Union have all been tipped as takeover candidates.

National Mutual of Australia, British shareholders who sold their holdings in Colonial on the first day of trading would have made, on average, £1,300.

Colonial's shares rose 9p above their listing price to £1.56 (£3.31). The rise represents an instant 27 per cent gain for the group's UK policyholders, who were issued shares at £1.22 (£2.60) as part of the group's demutualisation

last year. However, those who sold immediately will get only £1.30 per share because of the structure of the share sale and the strength of sterling.

Around 255,000 UK policyholders qualified for shares.

Each received a basic allocation of 225 shares, more than half were allocated at least 1,000 shares. More than 100,000 of the UK shareholders opted to sell immediately.

Commentary, page 31

Thrifty Britons save £18bn in first quarter

By ANNE ASHWORTH

BRITAIN was gripped by a wave of thrift in the first quarter of this year.

Combined personal savings in bank and building society accounts, National Savings, unit trusts, pensions and life assurance increased 26 per cent. Some £15 billion was invested, £10 billion of this being deposited with banks and building societies according to the Abbey National Savings Index.

Barry Naisbitt, Abbey National economist, attributed the rise to the continuing trend towards higher incomes. He added that some of the savings could have been motivated by general uncertainty before the general election.

For example, contributions to pension plans were up 12 per cent, at £4.9 billion, as people moved to use their tax reliefs before the end of the 1996-97 tax year and a possibly

less lenient regime under a new Government.

Savers were also busily opening accounts with building societies tipped for take-over or conversion, in the hope of a bonus, or topping up their accounts with converting societies to ensure that they qualify for free shares.

Abbey National yesterday revealed increases in its own savers' rates, following the base rate rise earlier this month. Rates will rise by up to 0.30 per cent.

The Abbey is the only the second leading institution to reveal its new rates, following the Bradford & Bingley Building Society's announcement last week.

The summer promised to see fierce competition for deposits, as banks and building societies vie for investors' cash after building society windfall payouts.

First float in City for Japan

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HITACHI Credit UK, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Hitachi Credit Corporation of Japan, is to become the first Japanese company to float on the London Stock Exchange.

The company aims to raise between £15 million and £20 million in a placing of shares with institutions. David Anthony, general manager, said that the money would be used to expand HCUK's operations in business and retail credit, insurance and contract hire — which trade under the banner of Nova — and Fleetlease, the contract hire and fleet management arm bought in 1991.

HCUK is also considering entering the store card market over the next 12 months. "We are a capital-hungry company, expanding rapidly in all our areas," said Mr Anthony.

HCUK will retain a 60 per cent stake after the float.

Exchange hits 'shadows' with tighter AIM rules

By FRASER NELSON

THE London Stock Exchange has tightened regulations on the Alternative Investment Market to try to crack down on unnamed "shadow advisers" who pull the strings of AIM companies without detection.

Under the biggest overhaul of rules to date, new entrants to the junior exchange will be obliged to name anyone who

has received more than £10,000 in either cash or shares in the year before admission. This is a requirement stiffer than that imposed on companies seeking admission to the official list.

The Exchange, which three months ago completed a review of the market's regulation system, said that the new regulations should stop com-

panies finding loopholes to avoid naming promoters.

A spokesman said: "As soon as you get lawyers into the room, the definition of promoter varies from the very narrow to the very wide. We would rather people went with the spirit, rather than the letter, of the rules."

"We reckoned that £10,000 is a low enough sum to detect advisers, and that making it a year before the float is a long enough period — anyone minded to make a quick turn would not be around for that long. This should allow us to get hold of anybody we want to capture in that way."

The Exchange, of which Gavin Casey is chief executive, has also told the 61 City advisers working with AIM companies to ensure that profit warnings are given more quickly. Nominated advisers have also been told to make sure a company is "appropriate" for the junior exchange before agreeing to supervise flotation.



Gavin Casey has overseen a review of AIM regulations

Big changes at the top for American chain

McDonald's shake-up

MCDONALD'S, the hamburger chain, is making large-scale changes to its top management structure in the US, the company's top executives in America. They will be replaced by a smaller number of national and more autonomous divisions, similar to the way McDonald's is managed in Britain and other overseas markets. The new executives have not yet been chosen, the company said.

The change overturns the 40-year-old centralised management structure based at McDonald's corporate headquarters in Illinois. The new structure is designed to make the company more flexible

and responsive to the market, where McDonald's faces increasing competition from national rivals such as Burger King, owned by Grand Metropolitan, and small regional operators.

In an aggressive \$200 million marketing effort, McDonald's cut the price of hamburgers to 55 cents, which is well below most competitors, but the move has failed to lift sales.

The group's 20,000 US franchisees have often complained that the stagnation in sales is partly because the company's centralised management has stifled innovation.

Up to 9,500 extra staff may be required

US banks eye London

US INVESTMENT banks are scouting the City and West End for new premises and could be employing more than 9,500 extra staff in London, Mark Bourne, of Chesterton, suggests that the investment will have serious implications for the City, increasing the demand for scarce skills and driving salaries even higher.

The ten firms include Goldman Sachs, which is seeking between 15,000 and 30,000 sq ft, and Merrill Lynch, which wants up to 30,000 sq ft. Goldman is tipped to acquire the redevelopment of the former Daily Express building in

Fleet Street, next to Goldman's existing headquarters. But the investment bank is also considering a development on the site of the former Daily Mirror building, Times Square in Queen Victoria Street and Canary Wharf.

Merrill Lynch is said to be interested in the Post Office site in King Edward Street in the City. Other US firms with their eyes on property expansion include CSFB, Andersen Consulting, JP Morgan, Fidelity and DLJ Phoenix.

The clash for new space reflects the continued focus by American banks on London as the hub for their eastward

expansion. Chesterton estimates that the total space requirement of the ten firms is equivalent to some 9,500 extra jobs. Mark Bourne, of Chesterton, suggests that the investment will have serious implications for the City, increasing the demand for scarce skills and driving salaries even higher.

"Most seriously for the UK financial industry, further expansion by American companies will increase the competitive pressures on even the largest UK finance houses, leading possibly to a further shrinking of the home-grown presence in the City."

Broadcaster in talks on set-top boxes

BRITISH Interactive Broadcasting (BIB) confirmed yesterday that it is in talks to provide interactive services to British Digital Broadcasting, the digital terrestrial TV company owned by Carlton, Granada and BSkyB, which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of *The Times*. BIB, whose owners include British Telecom and BSkyB, would ensure that the set-top boxes to be ordered by British Digital Broadcasting would be fully interactive. BIB said earlier this month that it will provide the same services to BSkyB, which plans to launch its 20-channel digital broadcasting system next spring.

Microsoft threatens IBM's core market

MICROSOFT, the software company, is moving into large-scale corporate computing for the first time, escalating the war between it and producers of mainframe and network computers, such as IBM and Oracle. In a significant marketing assault that begins today, Microsoft will start trying to sell networks of personal computers to large corporations which currently use mainframes and Unix software. The PC networks will use Microsoft software, and the initiative has won the backing of large PC manufacturers, such as Hewlett-Packard.

The move threatens to take a massive bite out of the businesses of IBM and Oracle, which sell large networks of computers driven by a mainframe and using special networking software. It will therefore extend the intensifying battle between PCs and the supporters of mainframe driven networks, such as Larry Ellison.

ICAEW backs change

THE Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales has endorsed calls "at the earliest opportunity" for UK limited-liability partnerships, but said joint and several liability remains the real cause for concern. The ICAEW, responding to a Department of Trade and Industry consultation paper, gave qualified support to the LLP proposals, which aim to protect accountants and other professionals from punitive lawsuits.

Channel 4 setback

CHANNEL 4, whose annual report was published yesterday, said that current-year profits will be "substantially lower" than 1996's because of the launch of Channel 5. Channel 4's profits, before tax and payments to the ITV companies, was £134.3 million last year, up 5 per cent. Sir Michael Bishop, chairman, said that revenue in the new year is unlikely to keep up with inflation as the market becomes increasingly fragmented by new channels. Profit is expected to be "minimal" after 1998.

BAE awaits approval

BRITISH AEROSPACE expects shareholders in Reflectone, the US training systems company, to approve today its £25 million acquisition by the UK defence group. BAE already owns 48 per cent of Reflectone, which makes flight simulators, weapons training equipment and maintenance training aids for military and civilian customers, including Airbus. Reflectone's business is primarily in the US market, but the company is trying to expand into the UK.

Royal Blue prospectus

ROYAL BLUE, supplier of City dealing software and general IT support systems, issued its pathfinder prospectus yesterday, prior to listing on the Stock Exchange. It aims to raise £10 million through a placing in June, including £5 million of new money. The flotation should value the company at between £35 million and £40 million. Profit before tax was £2 million (£1.1 million). Turnover was £11.7 million (£7.2 million).

Paragon's progress

PARAGON, the financial services group, raised its pre-tax profits 22 per cent to £10 million, in the six months to March 31. Earnings per share increased from 9.3p to 11.4p. The interim dividend rises from 1.1p to 1.2p. Net interest income remained unchanged at £18.8 million, although other operating income rose from £2.5 million to £3.5 million. Operating expenses rose from £8.9 million to £9.3 million, but provisions for losses fell from £4.2 million to £2.5 million.

Council picks Caspian

CASPION, the owner of Leeds United Football Club, has been selected by Leeds City Council as the preferred developer of the Leeds Arena in the vacant space next to Elland Road, the home of Leeds United. The complex will seat 13,000 people and will be used for events such as ice hockey, basketball and rock concerts. Caspian is also redeveloping the West Stand of Elland Road, which is also owned by the city council, to increase the ground's capacity to 45,000.

Confident Silk soars

SHARES in Silk Industries soared from 68.5p to 100.5p after the textiles group reported an 11.8 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £2.63 million and made an upbeat statement on prospects. Sales rose 12.3 per cent to £16.3 million and earnings per share went up 13.9 per cent to 15.6p. The total dividend for the year rose by 6p to 1p after payment of a 5p second interim dividend. Silk says: "We are now on the eve of marketing a wider range of products." Market report, page 32

RM advances 27%

RM, the software and services supplier, raised pre-tax profits 27 per cent, to £1.68 million, in the half year to March 31 on sales up 8 per cent, to £49 million. Earnings per share rose 26 per cent, to 6.3p. The half-year dividend rises from 1.8p to 2.3p. The shares rose 5p, to 82p. Mike Fischer, chief executive, said: "Despite challenging market conditions and continued good profit growth during the six months and continued to gain new customers in its core schools market."

Greenway slips back

SHARES in Greenway Holdings, the waste

Securing the services of Martin Taylor would be regarded as a coup by most major businesses in search of a non-executive director, so the new Government is understandably proud of having signed up the youthful Barclays' chief executive.

Taylor is a strategic thinker who, when not plotting the future of the textile industry or structure of international banking, has no doubt been pondering the inequities and inefficiencies of the country's tax and benefit system. As he probes more deeply into its workings and inconsistencies, he will surely be tempted to remark that he would not choose to start from here. He can be expected to ask the right questions. At Barclays, he has been known to query what it is that customers might want from the bank, an attitude which has played some part in transforming if from its dire dive into the red before he joined the board to profits of £2.4 billion last year. He has not been squeamish about declaring redundancies en route to that improvement: a fair few former Barclays employees probably count as social security claimants today.

Given the right remit and commitment from the Government, Taylor could have a real impact on this core area of tax gathering and public expenditure. He is not the sort of chap to take on the task without guarantees that his appointment is more than mere scalp gathering.

Lord MacLaurin, the retiring

Tesco chairman, was similarly left in little doubt that his presence was no longer required as head of the Sports Council.

Newly installed minister, Tony Banks, made it clear that the man who had transformed the grocery business and is aiming

to work similar miracles with

Certainly yesterday brought

much trumpeting of the Govern-

ment's enthusiasm for working

in partnership with business.

Picking Sir David Simon from

BP to become a minister was an

impressive move and there are

more to follow. Lord Hollick, the

chief executive of United News,

is put in a couple of days a week

working with Margaret Beckett,

the President of the Board of

Trade.

But there are some business-

men regarding New Labour's

appreciativeness with some scepticism.

Alastair Ross Goobey was summarily sacked as head of the

Private Finance Initiative Panel

after a year of intense effort

trying to turn a government

brain wave into a workable

option. The new minister, Geoffery Robinson, did not even feel it

was worth discussing his ideas

with Ross Goobey before giving him his marching orders.

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to work similar miracles with

English cricket, was not the sort

of chap he wanted around.

Both Ross Goobey and Mac-

Laurin have one thing in com-

mon: their allegiance to the Tory

party. Martin Taylor, unlike Sir

Iain Vallance, is maintaining

silence over the way he cast his

vote on polling day. But it would

be a shame if New Labour's

enthusiasm for a partnership

with business was as narrow

as some might be

tempted to conclude.

Boardroom tried and

laboratory-tested

Sir Richard Sykes officially

assumed the chairmanship of

Glaxo Wellcome at yes-

terday's annual meeting, braving

political correctness with

business as usual.

But Sir Richard is not alone in

assuming the dual status. Sir

Richard Greenbury will today

reveal the success that results

from his intense grip on the

rudder at Marks & Spencer.

Company structures need to

have the flexibility to make the

most of the talents available.

Both Sir Richards have an in-

depth knowledge of their busi-

ness coupled with strong vision

as to how they wish to develop

the organisation. What they need

most in their boardrooms is a

combination of non-executives

who can bring an external

perspective to bear, and execu-

tives with the courage to occa-

sionally challenge their bosses.

Arbitrarily insisting that the

two senior jobs should be split

would not improve the workings

of either M&S or Glaxo. But

while Glaxo shareholders ap-

peared happy with Sykes's

promotion, they may not have

realised quite how well qualified

for the role he is.

They should certainly help

Glaxo Wellcome to continue to

deliver new products, the life

blood of a business which can see

its best ideas copied to make

other people profits. But while

yesterday saw the company hav-

ing to admit that the strong

pound would dent its profits, the

tumbling sales of Zantac are no

longer considered to be poten-

tially devastating. Instead, there

is a raft of new drugs coming on,

aimed at coping with everything

from migraine to flu.

Sir Richard has made the

transfer from laboratory to

boardroom painlessly, but the

legacy of his early days in a white

coat is showing as clearly as Sir

Richard Greenbury's time on the

shop floor.

Kalms short circuits

the competition

Dixon believes in playing

commercial hard ball.

The company has never

made any secret of the fact that it

likes to win in the market place

and that is how it should be. But

chairman Sir Stanley Kalms

became nearly apoplectic when

he thought that his electrical

stores were facing unfair com-

petition from the regional elec-

tricity boards. He shrieked that

their retail operations were being

subsidised by their core electrici-

ty services and called foul.

Now we see a fascinating

glimpse of Dixon's own busi-

siness. The company's efforts to

persuade landlords that they

should effectively guarantee it

exclusive rights to sell a range of

products within a retail park

have attracted the attention of the

Office of Fair Trading.

It is natural for an organisa-

tion to wish to secure for itself

the best possible terms when it

signs a lease. But it can hardly be

said to be in the best interests of

consumers for a business to rule

out any competition. Dixons will

contend that landlords are not

forced to agree to such terms.

The firm may even try a line

about encouraging a decent mix

of shops being for the benefit of

the public. That somehow

sounds about as convincing as a

spotty Dixons employee trying to

sell a five-year warranty.

It was unclear under the last

Government quite what con-

sidered anti-competitive practices

and we have yet to learn what the

definition may be under this one.

But if the OFT looks at Dixon's

negotiating tactics with landlords,

it may not be very impressed.

Suspicious minds

□ SUSPICIONS about the mo-

vements of those behind some AIM

launches has prompted changes

in the listing rules. Now we are to

be told the identity of any investor

with more than £10,000 at stake in

an AIM entrant. The Stock Ex-

change is becoming more sceptical

than the Takeover Panel, with its

continued wide-eyed insistence

that friends of David Abell

might buy shares in Thomas

Jourdan just because they believe

in the trouser press.

Greenalls counters slow trade

BY ADAM JONES

GREENALLS, the pubs and leisure group, announced a 12 per cent increase in interim profits yesterday, despite subdued trading in its North West

area of England.</p

STOCK MARKET



MICHAEL CLARK

Barclays shares end run as brokers turn cautious

THE recent breathtaking rise of Barclays Bank's share price has come to an abrupt halt. The price fell 40p from its all-time high yesterday to close at £12.44½ as one of its most loyal supporters became more cautious.

Dresdner Kleinwort Benson has downgraded its recommendation from a "buy" to a "hold". Barclays had previously been described as one of its plays for 1997. But other brokers say the share price has started to run ahead of events, a view that will no doubt be echoed by market-makers short of stock.

Sentiment towards Barclays has also been dented by reports that BZW, the biggest securities house in the City, has been given 18 months to sharpen up. There had been speculation that BZW would be demerged or even sold to the highest bidder.

Share prices generally suffered a late reaction to Friday's 1.8-point sell-off in the Dow Jones industrial average. The FT-SE 100 index closed 48.7 down at 4,045.2 after 13 consecutive days of gains. Selling pressure was light because of the closure of most of Europe's financial markets for a traditional bank holiday and this was reflected in turnover, with a lowly 633 million shares changing hands.

A subdued start to trading on Wall Street ahead of the Federal Reserve Open Market committee meeting served to accelerate the falls towards the close, with brokers in London reporting heavy selling of the financial future. Brokers remain divided on the prospect for a rise in US rates.

The City speculators were up and running again in MEPC as the price touched 508½ on weekend reports that British Land was poised to launch a £2.2 billion offer. MEPC was being chased sharply higher earlier this month on whispers in the Square Mile that Hammerson, its rival, was under institutional shareholder pressure to make a bid. Previous bid talks between the two companies broke down. MEPC closed 1p lighter at 497p, while British Land responded with a loss of 1p at 583½p. Hammerson was 2½p firmer at 447½p.

Globo Wellcome tumbled 31½p to 1215½ after becoming the latest casualty of a strong pound. Sir Colin Corness, chairman, told



David Tooth of Silk Industries, whose shares jumped 35p

shareholders at the annual meeting that the group had made a good start to 1997. Sales in the four months to May were 10 per cent higher at £2.75 billion, but the strength of sterling could cut earnings by 5 per cent.

Other pharmaceutical companies moved lower in sympathy. Zeneca fell 42p to 119½, SmithKline Beecham 34½p to 110.19, Scotia

Holdings 12½p to 417½, and British Biotech 3p to 267½. Cortec International dropped 23½p to 21p after last week's update of trials into its treatment for osteoporosis.

Talk of a bid was dismissed. The red card was shown to Chelsea Village after the its victory over Middlesbrough in the FA Cup Final at the weekend, with the share losing 10p at 116p. This follows

reports that the late Matthew Harding's 20 per cent stake in the company will be sold in the market-place. Swan Management, the group's biggest shareholder which has always supported Ken Bates, chairman, sold 402,000 shares at 120p. It still owns 51 million, or 32.65 per cent.

The departure of Eric Cantona's 20 per cent stake in Manchester United touch 620p before ending the session 6p lower at 628p. Meanwhile, Hearts of Midlothian achieved a modest premium after becoming the first Scottish club to achieve a full stock market listing. Placed at 140p, the price touched a peak of 147½p before settling at 141½p, a premium of 1½p.

Talk of a merger of the various businesses that make up Harrison & Crosfield saw the shares rally 7p at 111p.

Laura Ashley slipped 2p to 102p as Kleinwort trimmed its profit forecast for next year by around £1 million to £17.5 million and for 1999 by a similar amount to £22.5 million.

One of the best moves of the day was seen in Silk Industries, where David Tooth is managing director. The price rallied from recent weakness to close 35p higher at 103½p. This follows a near 12 per cent rise in pre-tax profits last year to £2.63 million and some optimistic comments on current trading from Christopher Norland, chairman.

Cantiles finished 2½p easier at 310p after selling its remaining 22.8 per cent stake in Roseby, down 2½p at 297½p. □ GLI-EDGED: Turnover dropped sharply as many European buyers slipped away to enjoy the bank holiday, leaving prices to drift throughout the day. Brokers were anxious ahead of today's FOMC meeting.

In futures the June series of the long gilt finished 11½p lower at 113½. A total of 41,000 contracts were completed. Among conventional issues Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed 3½p to £108½, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was off 1½p at £103½.

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And lo, the guru's word was made fleshy

Martin Waller wonders how the world would manage without so many bibles for businessmen

It is weirdly catching the jargon and style of business strategy books. To the existing book marketing niches of crime, science fiction, the occult, whatever, there was added a few years ago a new one. Led by Tom Peters, the Stephen King of the genre, there came across the Atlantic a tide of management gurus, consultants, researchers, strategists and lecturers. Each had the Holy Grail of the businessman. There were, of course, any number of Grails floating around, which must cast some doubt on their authenticity. How to be a better manager, how to cope with the changing world, and on and on. The books have crept out of specialist bookshops on to the high street, and thence to the airport stalls.

"People like evangelists," explains Cary Cooper, professor of organisational psychology at UMIST in Manchester. "In the US these kinds of books have been around for a long time. Americans are very into simplistic solutions — how you do it in five easy lessons." Hence the success of the One Minute Manager, a thriving sub-species, for example.

But who buys these guides and who actually reads them? The books divide into four categories, and give some clues:

□ How to be a better manager — largely self-help manuals, bought by nervous junior managers, presumably.

□ How to organise your company better/cope with global change/survive the downswell/profit from the upswell — bought by nervous senior managers.

□ How to sell better — for both the above.

□ The weirdies — futurology, information technology and how it will change your world, and a slew of other heterodoxies.

Recommended: Bruce Tulgan's *Managing Generation X* (Capstone), on how to sell to get a day's work out of the Slackers, those born between 1963 and 1981. Also, *Pandemonium* by Gibson Burrell (Sage Publications), a truly bizarre and sometimes filthy historical career through abattoirs, satyriasis and Noel Edmunds' House Party, among other things.

Houston's *Through the Whirlwind* (Little

Brown), a look at historical cycles in war, disease and economics. The chapter on disease is particularly good.

The second question is how one goes about writing the more mainstream works. A business degree and attachment to a weighty-sounding (American) foundation are probably essential. Likewise a large typeface for easier reading while travelling. In terms of price, think big: never offer much change from £20.

As to content, there are four abiding principles:

□ Prey on your readers' insecurities: *Only the Paranoid Survive* is one title. "Unless you're prepared, massive changes in the marketplace can erode the company you've built," warns the blurb on another. A good gambit is along the lines of "Half of all marketing/info-tech/training spending is wasted. This book shows you how to cut it today." Reader response: "Oh God, is it my half?"

□ Generalise. Consider this passage, chosen

entirely at random: "The traditional definition of management has focused on control and decision-making activities. But more broadly, management's real mission is to assemble the ingredients needed for organisational success." Word count, 29, information content virtually zero. Or this student bed-sit-style (circa 1974) offering from the flyleaf of *The Tao of Sales*: "Like water, be fluid and supple; work in harmony with all things, nor in opposition; when it's time for power, be a torrent, when it's time for reflection, a deep pool."

□ Remember that snappy slogan: The 80/20 Principle, The Shadow Pyramid, The Second Curve, The Third Policeman. (Only the first

is real management books.)

And what does the real businessman think? Jonathan Fry is chief executive of Burmah Castrol: "One doesn't want to dismiss the whole lot of management literature as rubbish... what I am very against is this business of fads which sweep through the management world. Currently it's EVA, Economic Value Added, which no one understands but everyone claims to be plugged into. Before, it was TQM, Total Quality Management. I don't read them. I don't read Cosmopolitan either, but I have a view on it."

Bank needs to clarify its approach to inflation

We will soon have an independent Bank of England charged with controlling inflation. Interest rates will be set by a panel of experts rather than the Chancellor. What sort of performance can we expect and how will we know whether the Bank is doing its job? Mr Brown has said he will use the inflation target adopted by the Conservative Government. But this took two different forms. The Government talked of a target of 2.5 per cent or less, but much of its behaviour suggested that 2.5 per cent a year was a target and not an upper limit. These two have different implications because there is a large unpredictable component in any economy. If the Bank aims for 2.5 per cent a year, it will find that inflation is sometimes higher and sometimes lower than its target. An inflation rate of 3 per cent a year now and then would not mean that the Bank had failed. It could simply mean that it had aimed at 2.5 per cent and been blown off course by events that no one could have foreseen.

To aim for 2.5 per cent or less is quite different. Most people would say this target means that inflation should not rise above 2.5 per cent, or only infrequently. If the Bank's target is in this form, the prudent thing is to aim for a much lower figure, say 1.5 per cent, allowing a margin for error.

A study by the International Monetary Fund suggests that the variability of inflation can be reduced if interest rates are set with reference not only to current inflation, but also in the light of expected future inflation, on the assumption that the best forecast available is used. And this is the difficulty. Whatever the forecasting skills brought to the panel, there is a real risk that the benefits gained by correct anticipation of future trends may be more than offset by the disruption caused when the committee is mistaken.

At least this makes the next step clear. In the interests of open government, the Bank should publish details of the sort of variability it expects in the inflation rate with various policy structures and rules, including the benefits it expects to gain from using judgment. If nothing else it will give us a standard for assessing the performance of the new arrangements.

ANDREW BLAKE AND MARTIN WEALE
Andrew Blake is a Research Fellow and Martin Weale is Director of the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.

Lonrho's usual channels shed little light for shareholders

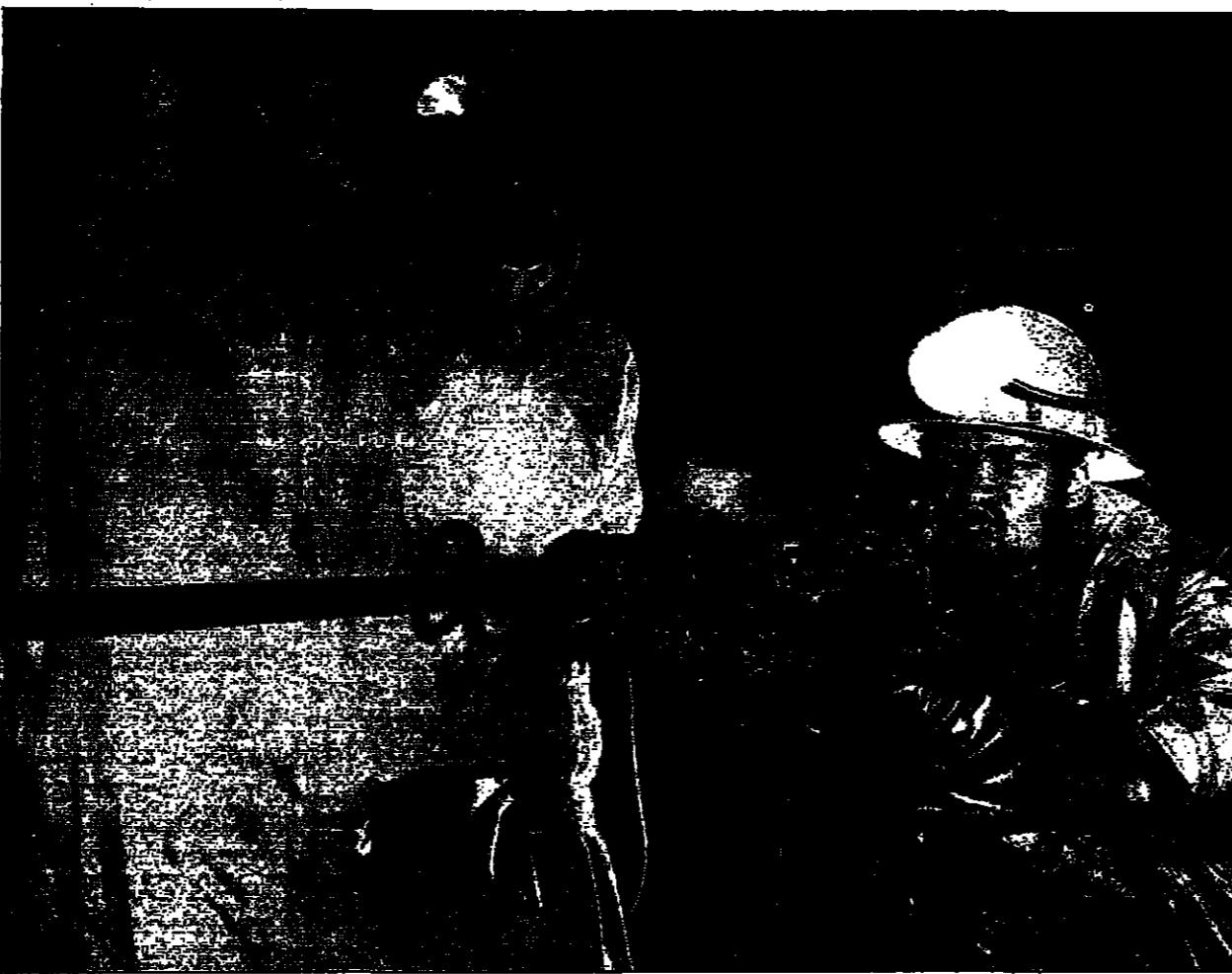
A deal with JCI would not lack complexity, says Paul Durman

You have to hand it to Lonrho. Whatever its faults, the company remains a compelling attraction to some of the world's most extraordinary businessmen. Mzi Khumalo looks just the sort of character to follow in the footsteps of the mercurial Tony Rowland and the mysterious Dieter Bock.

Mr Khumalo spent 12 years as a political prisoner on South Africa's Robben Island, giving him plenty of opportunity to get to know Nelson Mandela. In the post-apartheid era, Mr Khumalo has become one of South Africa's fastest-rising black businessmen. Now the JCI mining group that he controls is seeking a £2 billion merger with Lonrho — a deal that will supposedly resolve one of the thorniest problems facing the UK company.

According to a leaked report — and where would Lonrho be without information appearing in other than the normal channels? — a Lonrho/JCI deal will allow Anglo American Corporation, the South African coal mining colossus, to make an elegant cut in its 26 per cent stake in Lonrho. Anglo American, which acquired the bulk of its stake from Mr Bock, is under pressure to sell from the intransigence of the European Commission, which is worried about Anglo exerting undue influence over the world's platinum market. It is suggested that Anglo could swap its stake in Lonrho for Lonrho's shares in Ashanti Goldfields, the prized Ghanaian gold miner.

The proposed deal has some undoubted attractions. JCI's coal interests would be a good fit with Duiker, Lonrho's colliery business. The enlarged company would retain substantial gold interests. And Mr Khumalo could offer Lonrho invaluable help with his political contacts — an area perceived as a growing weakness



Lonrho and JCI's mining operations could fit well, but talks between the two groups are still at an early stage

since the company ousted Mr Rowland, its founder and driving force for 35 years.

Nick Morell, who succeeded Mr Bock as chief executive last autumn, came up through the advertising side of *The Observer* and originally caught Mr Rowland's eye with his handling of the sale of the loss-making newspaper to the Guardian Media Group. He then ran Lonrho's UK printing and textiles businesses — virtually unknown outposts of the Lonrho empire. His knowledge of mining is hardly extensive.

The intervention from JCI injects further uncertainties into Lonrho's labyrinthine demerger, which is supposed to be completed this autumn. The sale of the Princess hotels has dragged on for months, to the accompaniment of the usual Lonrho rumour mill.

Even the Rowland camp recognises that JCI could be a clever move. JCI is not so big that it will give rise to the competition concerns that

have hit Anglo and which scuppered Lonrho's platinum merger with Impala, the platinum arm of Gencor, the other giant of South African mining.

As ever with Lonrho, the full picture is clouded by a myriad of complexities — not least of which is the minority shareholdings that string Lonrho together with Anglo, Anglo American and Gencor.

For example, it is far from

clear why JCI should want to see Lonrho's 41 per cent stake in Ashanti handed to Anglo. Robbin Kearney, an analyst with Barnard Jacobs Meller, the South African firm, said JCI has been interested in Lonrho's Duiker coal business for months.

But now a full-blown merger is on the table, "Ashanti would be the most important thing for JCI to get their hands

on", she said. It is the Ashanti issue that leads many to believe that the rumoured deal has Anglo's fingerprints all over it. One observer claims that Anglo is "absolutely obsessed" with gaining control of Ashanti for months.

Anglo American steadfastly refuses to comment on what role it may have had in brokering the talks between JCI and Lonrho. Interestingly, Ken Costa, the SBC Warburg vice-chairman who is advising JCI, has also acted as an adviser to Anglo.

JCI is understood to have initiated the talks taking place in London yesterday, and to have proposed that Lonrho acquire it via an issue of shares. JCI is valued at about £900 million, and Lonrho at about £1.1 billion.

One line being peddled yesterday is that Lonrho would be happy to surrender its interest in Ashanti because it lacks management control and a sale would improve its earnings. Such an analysis looks

extremely short-sighted. Ashanti produced almost a million ounces of gold last year, but its profits are expected to fall this year and its shares are depressed. Charles Kermot, analyst at Paribas Capital Markets, believes that Ashanti's present market value of about £575 million represents barely half its true worth, which he puts at £1.7 billion. Mr Kermot said Ashanti will shortly start production from two new gold mines, leading to a 40 per cent jump in output by 1999. Accordingly, Mr Kermot believes that Anglo will have to offer Lonrho a substantial amount of cash to tempt it to part with Ashanti.

Even if Lonrho and Anglo were to agree on price, the Ghanaian Government could prove a stumbling block. Ghana was thought to be reluctant to see control of Ashanti and its Obuasi mine pass to Anglo American. Although it is now suggested that this was only an impression fostered by Mr Rowland and his acolytes, Lonrho investors will learn the truth only when there is a firm proposal for consideration.

The difficulties of pricing

JCI will be exacerbated by Lonrho's poorly rated paper.

Battered by the timing and manner of Mr Bock's sale to Anglo, Lonrho trades at a much greater discount to its assets that does JCI.

Now Gencor and Impala completely out of the picture.

While the South African company is still mounting a legal challenge to the European Commission's right to block the proposed platinum merger, Impala, which owns 46.5 per cent of Lonrho Platinum and has the first option to buy Lonrho's 73 per cent should there be a change in control. Once again, whether or not Gencor will be able to stick its oar in will only become clear when a detailed deal emerges.

Lonrho was keen yesterday to emphasise that its talks with JCI are still at a preliminary stage. If it does decide to go ahead, it is hard to believe that it could resolve all the difficulties and still stick to its demerger timetable. It remains hard to say exactly what, in 12 months' time, Lonrho will look like, as called on who will be running it.

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asked. Oh, about 1.63 in the market, they replied. "No, where's Stirling? I'm on the wrong train. I'm in Edinburgh." The same Turner, on a flight to France not long before, left his travel documents on a food tray, necessitating a hasty search of the aircraft's bins. Chris, have you ever thought of spending more time in the office?

Fit for a launch

NOW it can be told: A couple of months before the election new Labour was casting around for a room imposing enough to house the internal launch of its official manifesto. The party's media machine was based at Millbank Tower, and a mere 20 storeys above this was the woodlined Vickers boardroom. Perfect, except that Vickers was not keen to be quite so closely associated with all this. Some hurried and temporary redecorating was needed. Easy enough to unscrew the Vickers logo. But coverings had to be hung over the distinctive curved wall, which bears wooden reliefs of the ships the company once built, and a nautical bell, also harking back to its shipbuilding traditions, was removed. I am told that in the publicity shots handed out by Labour the room is just recognisable — if you know what you are looking for.

● **THE sometimes autocratic head of Chrysalis Group was determined when he faced the City with his interim figures on Friday that analysts would be properly impressed with the Gold Sony Award just won by Heart 106.2, his London radio station. So Chris Wright's chauffeur Annie was sent back to west London to pick the thing up. She arrived back distraught, clutching a trophy now in three constituent pieces. In her hurry she had dropped it. I am assured she is still allowed near his new Bentley.**

● **CHRIS TURNER, a derivatives salesman at SBC Warburg and in the running for most accident-prone man in the City, was on a trip to Scotland last week. He rang into his office in a bit of a state. "Where's sterling?" he**

wage, and whether it should be £4.26 an hour, £4.42 or any other figure plucked out of the air. Perhaps they should consult the unofficial new boss of the Low Pay Commission, who ever seems to have decided will be Peter Jarvis when he steps down as chief executive at Whitbread on June 2. Whitbread's report and accounts arrive, and they show that last year he earned £98,794 last year, including £161,502 in performance-related pay — or, assuming Jarvis puts in a 60-hour week like the Trojan he is and only takes a fortnight holiday, a few pence less than £200 an hour. Not a figure that has yet featured in the debate.

MARTIN WALLER



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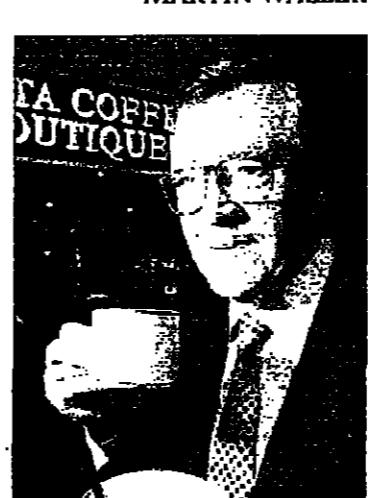
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you are looking for.

Hourly rate

THE various unions and new Labour are dickered over the minimum



Peter Jarvis is widely tipped to head the Low Pay Commission

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■ OPERA

Musical values triumph as Glyndebourne's season opens with Puccini's *Manon Lescaut*



■ MUSIC 1

Two nights of Philip Glass at the Festival Hall make for delirious punters and sad critics



■ MUSIC 2

Schubert at the double: Building a Library surveys recordings of the Piano Duets



■ JAZZ

At the Barbican, the exuberant Carla Bley makes the most of a distinguished line-up of soloists

DONALD COOPER

OPERA: John Eliot Gardiner's South Downs debut makes Rodney Milnes long for an entire Puccini cycle from him

Tough and tender players

Manon Lescaut
Glyndebourne

The strengths of Puccini's early opera (1893) — his third, predating *La Bohème* — are almost entirely musical, and so are those of Glyndebourne's new production. Everything that John Eliot Gardiner promised in his interview on this page last week he delivered. The coruscating brilliance of sound in the opening bars promised an evening of rare orchestral pleasure: crisp, disciplined textures through which every strand of musical thought emerged, and playing of rare, communal virtuosity from the London Philharmonic Orchestra that took your breath away.

The string sound was lean, muscular and light on vibrato, lending the music a toughness not always immediately apparent in Brand-X readings; the occasional rather blatant reminiscence of a Big Tuna — comparatively rare in *Manon Lescaut* — was given an astringency that banished, to use Gardiner's own word, slop. Mere sentiment was thoroughly replaced with genuine tenderness and compassion.

Let that not suggest coldness: the hushed, silky string playing at the lovers' first meeting would satisfy the most demanding hedonist, and the little harmonic sidestep in the heroine's *In quelle trine morbide* was achieved with near-indecent sensuousness. And the cleanliness of texture allowed Gardiner to

relish to the full the wide range of colour in the instrumentation, with trumpets yapping away under Geronte in the second-act finale, we were suddenly in the world of Kurt Weill. In a word, Gardiner's reading was an ear-opener: the prospect of him leading a Puccini cycle at Glyndebourne may be far-fetched, but it would certainly have me booking season tickets.

The opera's dramaturgy is decidedly wonky — up to a dozen hands were involved in the anonymous libretto — mainly because all concerned were anxious to avoid being accused of copying Massenet's earlier setting of Prévost's story. The suppression of scenes showing the lovers living in blissful sin means that the Manon of Puccini's second act is a different character from the one we meet in the first: thereafter she is a standard Puccini victim figure. There's not a lot a director can do to put flesh on these bones.

Indeed, there are few surprises in the production by the Graham Vick/Richard Hudson team: elegant naturalistic direction of singers in beautifully designed (and made) traditional costumes against spare, abstract sets, with ochre replacing the grey-blue of their *Onegin*. Tradition loomed a

little too large in the assembly of freaks and decadents in Manon's salon, and in the roll-call of "fallen" women: surely some degree of contemporary perspective could be brought to each episode? And is Hudson's antiseptic decor quite right for Puccini's veristic vignettes? Or for the squalor of the subject matter? Never mind, it's all terribly pretty.

The young Romanian soprano Adina Niteșcu sings Manon extremely beautifully — her voice is luscious and warm throughout the range — but she is as yet impassive on stage and her heroine remained a somewhat shadowy figure. Traditionally, a heavier tenor than Patrick Denniston is cast as Des Grieux. His tone is bronzed rather than brilliant, but he sings musically and accurately, and Gardiner's canny accompaniment of his big third-act outburst helped to make it work. He is also a good actor, making the man entirely credible.

Antonello Palombi was a ringing Italianate student Edmundo, one who could well have his sights on Des Grieux before long, and Paolo Montarsolo made a memorable Geronte, plainly too old to cut the mustard any more — which must be why everyone entering the boudoir makes a point of inspecting the bedlinen. The chorus was quite marvelous. Channel 4 and Radio 3 simultaneously broadcast the production on May 31.



In luscious voice: young Romanian soprano Adina Niteșcu brought beautiful singing to the role of Manon, but an impassive stage presence

CONCERTS: Maximum Minimalism poses questions on the South Bank; a host of Catherine in Baroque mood

Out of his system

Philip Glass
Festival Hall

Indian and African music and his rich intellectual life seem to have left no trace.

The *Heroes Symphony* like the *Low*, was inspired by the David Bowie-Brian Eno album of the same name but seems to have neutralised the elements that gave it its bite: it is raw energy, the rasping voice of Bowie, a sense of defiant despair. It was known as an avant-garde album and it was in the pop world. What Glass has created is synthetic, well meaning and uses the blandest of harmonies and orchestrations. The rousing pop anthem *Heroes* is emasculated.

Both works on Thursday, Act II from *Satyagraha* and the *Heroes Symphony*, were written to be staged and needed that extra dimension. The enthusiasm of the Crucifix Hill Chorus kept the attention through swaths of music on which all Glass's experience of

lated to descending chords; the sonatas in *Songs of the Silent Age* are rendered awkwardly on French horns. The following night in *The Upper Room*, *The Photographer*, *Music in Circular Motion* passed by in similar motion indeed.

The high points were, not surprisingly, from Glass's two most successful operas, *Einstein on the Beach* and *Akhnaten*. The combination of fast-driven machine sound and the very human voice of a free tenor saxophone solo in *The Building* (from *Einstein*) gave this music a fundamental raison d'être hard to find in the other pieces. The Funeral Music from *Akhnaten*, too, is invigorating: lively drum rhythms, crashing dissonant chords in the bass, a tonality of its own, a real sense of ritual theatre rising to an exhilarating climax. The audience gave standing ovations at both nights: anyone thinking of staging *Akhnaten* again in this country could be sure of a sell-out.

HELEN WALLACE

IN THE "hymn sheet" that accompanies his latest recording, *The Carla Bley Big Band Goes to Church*, the Californian composer asks wryly: "Why would anyone want to listen to almost 70 minutes of blaring big-band music?" Then she answers her own question: "Probably because I was able to get my four special soloists again. And my rhythm section. The music would be nothing without these two intact elements."

For her nine-date Contemporary Music Network UK tour, along with three of those essential soloists — Italian trombonist Gary Valente, Australian player Wolfgang Puschinski and British tenorist Andy Sheppard — Bley drew on the extraordinary strength in depth of her existing brass section to substitute Guy Barker for the original incumbent, American trumpeter Lew Soloff. The rhythm section, bassist Steve Swallow

What Katy did

The Catherine Wheel
Wigmore Hall

Then came two short Trios, one of them called *'La Catarina'* by the Cremona-born composer Tarquinio Merulo. Capricious little phrases chased each other from one violin (Catherine Martin) to another (Kati Debretzeni). Katherine May, the evening's feisty and urbane harpsichordist, and Catherine Finniss, cello, then took the lead in a *Ciaccona* whose ground bass is teasingly familiar from Monteverdi's madrigal, *Zefiro, torna*.

Telemann and Biber faced

each other across the interval — and in two rare and beguiling pairings of instruments. Telemann's Concerto in E minor is poised on a pivot-point in woodwind history: the new *flauto traverso* (flute, Katy Birch) and the older *flauto dolce* (recorder, Catherine Latham) due together in supple sequences and in a lipsticking finale. The equally seductive voices of two violas d'amore (Catherine Mackintosh and Katherine McGillivray) are exploited with cunning and imagination in Biber's Partita No 7, with its French suite of movements and final noble set of variations.

Every Catherine, Kathryn, Kate and Katharina gathered once again for a final epithalamion, Bach's Wedding Cantata, *Weiche nur, betribt Schatten*. Soprano Catherine Bott blew the shadows and frosty winds away: harpsichord provided her with Phoebe's swift steeds; and solo violin, oboe and bassoon led on the final dance.

HILARY FINCH

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SCHUBERT PIANO DUETS

Reviewed by Stephen Pile



NO WONDER Schubert has been called the patron saint of piano duettists. In the last ten years of his life he enriched the medium with a range of compositions, from dances to the Grand Duo in C. Accounts of the social gatherings in which he shared these works among friends may have reinforced impressions of them as minor, but they are characteristic manifestations of genius.

The compositions for four hands from 1824 are unsurpassed by anything he composed in that productive final year. Among them, the Fantasy in F minor (D940) has had plenty of recordings but few go beyond a generalised projection of atmosphere. Its drama and expressive charge call for a wide range of sound and gesture, and the most successful recordings tend to be those by ad hoc partnerships of fine solo pianists, rather than devoted practitioners of duets working on a more domestic scale. The 1984 Sony recording by Murray Perahia and Radu Lupu is a classic.

Recently Lupu has partnered Daniel Barenboim in the Grand Duo and the delightful Variations in A flat. For a complete set of the duets a recommendation would be Yaara Tal and Andreas Groothuysen, who offer seven CDs in a format of four volumes available separately (Sony). For a nearly complete tally of the duets from 1824 on, distributed over two double-albums, there is perhaps better value for money from Christoph Eschenbach and Justus Frantz whose refinement of sound and character are blessings in a medium which can be noisy. They play the works of Schubert's last year as they should be: as the greatest chamber music. The recordings are reissues and are available from next month (EMI CZS 5 6766-2 and CZS 5 6970-2 £15.99 each).

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCOGI, Forres, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

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La Valse, *L'enfant et les sortiléges*
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■ VISUAL ART 1



The Swinging Sixties in Britain and France are recalled at the Brighton festival

■ VISUAL ART 2



Out of the ordinary: a posthumous show for Jeff Luke finds excitement in the everyday

THE TIMES ARTS



■ DANCE

Urban stress is the motor that powers Siobhan Davies's impressive new work, *Bank*



■ THEATRE

The Rodney Ackland revival continues with a Chichester staging of his *After October*

VISUAL ART Richard Cork takes a cool look at the Sixties through the psychedelic haze of a south coast exhibition

Swinging back the pendulum

Evening, the restlessness of a young audience. Bernard Rands and Catherine Deneuve look intimate enough. The year is 1965, and both of them are favouring their newfound celebrity. Deneuve leans towards Baileys' smiling as she relishes their very own entente cordiale. But he directs his large eyes outwards, appraising the photographer with a watchful, professional gaze.

Baileys' expression sums up the supreme self-consciousness of the period, when everyone appeared to do everything in front of a camera. He knew the defining power of the lens, and its effervescent images play a central role throughout the *Les Sixties* exhibition at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery. But Deneuve's cool presence reminds us that France underwent a similar revolution. If our current curiosity about swinging London seems insatiable, we often overlook the upheavals that galvanised Paris during the same seismic period.

How can this restless, noisy and anarchic era be conveyed in three rooms of a sedate 19th-century municipal building, where even the most smutty manifestations of the "counter-culture" have been carefully preserved, classified and placed on orderly display? Strict editorial standards are upheld here, above all in the notice next to Peter Sedgley's whirling, kinetic disc-sculpture. "The ultra-violet lights on this work have been switched off," it explains, "to prevent fading of other artworks in this gallery."

Despite inevitable restrictions, though, *Les Sixties* does succeed in taking the pulse of its feverish subject. The organisers, David Alan Mellor and Laurent Gerverau, take an all-embracing view. Paintings and sculpture are included, often making a powerful contribution to the show. But *Les Sixties* aims at placing works of art in the widest possible social context.

"Consumer Culture" is the opening theme. It moves from the tourist banality of a 1962 "Ici Londres" window display at Bon Marché in Paris to the austere geometry of a cream wool dress by Courreges. Allen Jones' brash Pop art is included, but so are Joe O'Reilly's photographs of Peter Blake, David Hockney and their contemporaries posing like statues on plinths outside their exhibition at the 1963 Paris Biennale.

Playfulness abounds, in the silliness of Bernard Rands's outrageous *Elephant Armchair* and the cleverness of Clive Barker's witty simulated *French Fancies* in painted bronze. But the darker side of the Sixties soon becomes visible as well. J.G. Ballard's eight black-and-white photographs of a crashed Ford Zephyr look ominous, even if its shattered windscreens reveal no trace of the obsessed couple critically aroused by car smashes in his related fiction.

Violence dominates the second section, where a dozen stills from Antonioni's *Blow Up* concentrate on the most sinister part of the film. Successive frames show the young Vanessa Redgrave luring a middle-

aged man into a deserted park, embracing him and then moving away as a gun emerges from the bushes.

The Sixties' blatant preoccupation with sex dominates the space devoted to "A Man's World". Ralph Steadman turns one of his lacerating New London Cries into a callous fashion photographer, with phallic zoom-lenses bulging from his crotch. Without bothering to look at the mascara-smeared model picking her nose behind him, he snarls: "I said I'm going to put your face in *Vogue*, you stupid old cow!" Women were often treated with arrogance and contempt in the cold, white, camera-packed studios of the period. Even a goddess as exalted as Bardot appears with a target-like circle stamped on her screen-dot face in Gerald Laing's sinister painting. Christine Keeler found herself adored and deplored, usually at the same time. In Geoffrey Davien's plaster bust, ominously nicknamed a "sculptoon", she looks at once mesmerising and demonic.

The few women artists who won prominence did their best to offer an alternative view. Jann Haworth's

strident mixed-media sculpture of a *Snake Lady* looks ferocious, as the serpent coils its way round her ample feathered body. But she seems trapped as well, and a similar ambiguity runs through Pauline Boty's work. Tragically short-lived, she knew precisely how to pose like an archetypal Sixties "chick" for Michael Ward's photograph.

Sometimes the Anglo-French vantage of the show yields unexpected results. Among the over-familiar Beaufortiana ephemera, we suddenly find a poster advertising the group's first feature film under the bizarre title *4 Garçons Dans Le Vent*. At the time, the Fab Four were photographed as harmlessly chuckling Liverpudlian lads. But on occasion the boyish masks slip. Robert Whitaker's 1966 album cover dressed the group as white-coated butchers, brandishing headless dolls and cradling raw meat as they grin mirthlessly. The images caused such offence in America that they were withdrawn and, for the most part, destroyed. But Martin Sharp neatly caught the group's ambivalent attitude in a painted photograph, where Lennon's face is transformed into a Union Jack. What initially looks like cheery patriotism ends up resembling a gag, preventing him from voicing the full extent of his dissent.



Homage to weird pop: *The Crazy World of Arthur Brown* by Michael English and Nigel Weymouth

ever more disastrous war in Vietnam provided a sharper focus for anger on both sides of the Channel. In London, Lewis Morley took a campaigning shot of Tariq Ali and Vanessa Redgrave united in their condemnation of the conflict. But they look too aware of their photographic status as banner-brandishing

stars when set beside an anonymous French poster. Produced in Paris at the very zenith of revolutionary Gallic zeal, it offers an aerial view of the Champs Elysées bursting with demonstrators on the march. From one end to the other, the entire avenue is dense with resolute, unstoppable bodies. Their enthusi-

asm may seem naively utopian today, when ideological fervour has given way to widespread scepticism. But their mass determination to have faith in the future still seems moving, and makes our own lack of optimism all the more sad.

• *Les Sixties* is at Brighton Museum and Art Gallery (01273 204000) until June 29

Private painted pictures

Siobhan Davies
Gardner Arts Centre

graphed *White Man Sleeps* in 1988, she used Kevin Volans's string quartet of the same name. Nine years later, she has turned to the composer's earlier arrangement of *White Man Sleeps*, scored for two-harpichords, viola da gamba and percussion. It is more abrasive and pungent than the string arrangement, and it gives Davies's choreography even more heft and heart.

She has reworked segments of her original, although the bulk of it remains unchanged. Unlike the more unsettling *Bank*, *White Man Sleeps* seduces its audience with an impulsive sensuality. There is a hedonistic delight in the physicality of Davies's strong-minded dancers, as if they are plunging into a pool of warm, sweetly scented water. It looks a pleasure to dance; it's certainly a pleasure to watch.

The Siobhan Davies Company is at the Arts Theatre, Cambridge, on May 30 and 31, and at the Crucible in Sheffield on June 3 and 4.

DEBRA CRAINE

you can imagine a kind of urban stress rising from the crowding discomfort of their overpopulated environment. The patterns of *Bank* may be complex, but the immediacy of its language is readily discernible.

Despite the creative wealth of her back catalogue, Davies is not one for revisiting old territory. There has to be a good reason to revive a work, and in the case of *White Man Sleeps*, the other half of her Brighton Festival double bill, the spur was the score.

When Davies choreo-

Warming to a tangy family stew

THEATRE

After October
Minerva, Chichester

a dramatist with an eye for the clutter and chaos of English Bohemianism.

At first you may feel the

piece is Chekhovian in the

wrong sense. There is a lack of

tension and momentum as a

not-too-trenchantly observed

family and its hang-ups drift

about a big, shambling flat in what seems to be Hampstead,

1936. While Nick Waring's

Clive struggles in the corner to

finish writing the West End

play that will save the clan

from the bailiffs, Dorothy

Tutin's Rhoda, his retired-

actress mother, absentlv vacuums

the frayed carpet. Bring on

the two sisters, one trailing

her adulterous employer, the

other the French husband she

acquired while working as a

hostess in a bar; add the

depressive girl Clive loves and

the megalomaniac poet he has encouraged; and you have the kind of tangy human stew Ackland enjoyed.

The stew gradually warmed

up on the first night, so that I

suddenly realised that a cast

that had been leaving me cold

was giving me genuine pleasure.

Some of the characters

could be more thoroughly explored. Moreover, the play's shape is a bit predictable.

Yet Clive's disappointment

at the poor reviews of his big

first night leads to surprises,

including a hilarious scene in

which he phones a London

critic at dawn, screams that he

is a leary moron about to die

of leprosy; and then finds he

has the wrong number. Keith

Baxter's fine production, with

Tutin muddleheadedly exuding

the spirit of never-say-die,

leaves you feeling that this

slowly, troubled, affectionate

crew will somehow blunder

and bumble through.

Ackland was only 28 when he

wrote the play, but had already

found his voice; and if you miss that voice at Chichester,

you can and should catch it at Greenwich next month.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

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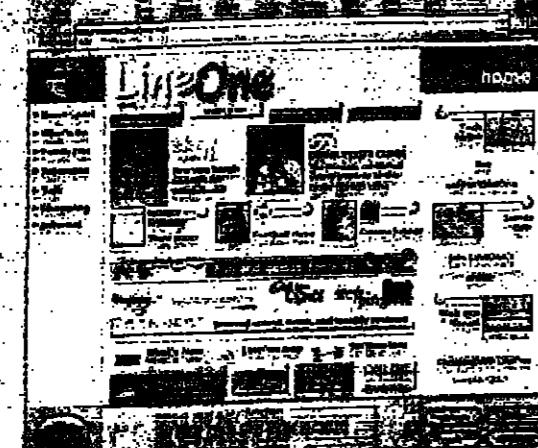
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conducts and
plays music by
the Bach family

VENUE: Tonight at the Barbican Centre, London



CHOICE 2
Maurizio Pollini
continues his survey
of the Beethoven
piano sonatas

VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall, London



CHOICE 3
Skylight, by David Hare, is brought to Coventry by the National Theatre

VENUE: From tonight at the Warwick Arts Centre



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Garth Brooks
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the only European
concerts on
his current tour

LONDON

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Pinhas Zukerman conducts the ECO in music by J.C. Bach, then plays JS Bach's Violin Concerto and Concerto in Chamber Music. With violinist Julian Lloyd Webber, cellist Steven Isserlis, pianist Ivo Pogorelich and Hans-Joachim Koller. Music completes the programme. Barbican, St. Martin's Lane, EC2A (0171-638 8891). Tonight 7.30pm. £20.

MARUZIO POLLINI The virtuoso pianist performs the Beethoven Sonata in C minor Op. 90 in a C major Op. 101 in B flat minor. Both at 7.30pm, Sat. 18 May. Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (0171-562 4242). Tonight 7.30pm. £20.

TITUS ANDRONICUS Playing his Procrustes and Les Choristes, Silvio Fazzina brings us his visually stunning production of Shakespear's 2,000-year-old tragedy. It's set in a modern English setting. Lyric, King Street, Hammarcourt, W6 6BS-741 2311. Opens tonight, 7pm. Performances Wed. 21, Sat. 24, Sun. 25, 7pm and Sat. 2-2.30pm. Until June 28.

ELSEWHERE

BRIGHTON WATERS (Con Exchange, brighton.com) A musical extravaganza featuring the best of Brighton's musicals, plus a special preview of the musical adaptation of *The Moon* during the Brighton Festival (01273 709 709).

THE FIX (No American musical by John Lomax, Garside Rose) A satirical comedy by John Lomax, about an ambitious political candidate and the ex-pat returnees. Dromos, 10-11a, 349-352, More St., 7pm. Wed. and Sat. 8pm. £30. £25.

THE HERBAL BED Peter Whelan's touring play: Teresa Barham plays Shakespeare's daughter and Stephen Boorman Puritan minister.

LADY WINTERMERE'S FAN Evelyn Muntz's production of *Wilde's Comedy of Errors* and *Rebecca*. Criterion, Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8890). Mon-Sat. 8pm mat. Thurs. from Sat. 8pm until June 28.

THE MAI Dublin premier by Maria Carr, author of the hauntings.

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts
and entertainment
compiled by Gillian MacKay

BUTTON William Gaunt, Joe McGann and McHugh star in Tennessee Williams' *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. Presented by the Moon River Production Company and Chester Galway Theatre. Open House, Wizer Street (01203 254524). Opens tonight. Sat. 7.30pm, mats Wed. and Sat. 8pm. Mon-Sat. 8pm, mat. Sun. 3pm.

CONVENTY The National Theatre tour's Brian by Richard Eyre's production of *Skylight*, David Hare's dramatisation of society's conflicts in the 19th century. Directed by Alan Ayckbourn. Open House, Wizer Street (01203 254524). Opens tonight. Sat. 7.30pm, mats Wed. and Sat. 8pm. Mon-Sat. 8pm, mat. Sun. 3pm.

GLASGOW The 40-strong dance company, *Laibach Athletics*, celebrate traditional folk music, dancing, drumming, comedy and drama in the British premiere of *Hegira* (King's Theatre, tonight and Thursday, 7.30pm, Sat. 2.30pm and 8pm). At the Citizens' Theatre (tonight and Thursday, 7.30pm, Sat. 2.30pm and 8pm).

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre in London and elsewhere indicated by the symbol (●)

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats available

■ Seats at all prices

Brooklynn Copeland (top) celebrating a successful fundraising team responsible for *Hoover Dog*, *Jahouse Rock* and *Spanish Harlem*.

Prince (left) in *Skylight*.

■ House full, returns only

■ Seats available

■ Seats at all prices

Portia Coughlan. Four generations of women whose men have recently departed. Natasja's Kent directs *Triptych*, 359 Fulham Road, NW8 (0171-958 5051). Mon-Sat. 8pm, mat. Sat. 4pm. Until June 7.

■ MARLENE Sian Phillips gives an outstanding performance as the singer with the golden French dress. Lyric, St. James's Avenue, W1 (0171-234 5645). Mon-Sat. 7.45pm, mats Wed. and Sat. 8pm.

■ THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES

Peter Hall's production of *Malory's* droll old hen, Eric Sykes, as excellent as his finger-snapping servant *Comedy*, Panty Street, SW1 (0171-369 1771). Mon-Sat. 8pm, mat. Wed. 3pm. Sun. 4.30pm. Until July 26.

■ SHOEMAKER'S CAVE

Sir Peter Hall's production of *Shoemaker's Cave*, 10am-11.30am.

■ THE HOMECOMING

Peter Hall's production of *Homecoming*, set in a north London house where David Bradley's dad leads the struggle to possessors of the house. Open House, W1 (0171-234 2252). Tuesdays and Thursdays.

■ LADY WINTERMERE'S FAN

Evelyn Muntz's production of *Wilde's Comedy of Errors* and *Rebecca*.

Criterion, Royal Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8890). Mon-Sat. 8pm mat. Thurs. from Sat. 8pm until June 28.

■ THE MAI

Dublin premier by Maria Carr, author of the hauntings.

NEW RELEASES

DANGEROUS GROUND (18+) Revenge thriller, set in South Africa, with Idris Elba and Elizabeth Hurley. Virgin (Telecine) (0171-394 0031).

■ HIGH SCHOOL HIGH

(15+) Rough and tumble teacher, then there's a lesson in sex. Director: Hart Bochner. Cedone West End (01990 859 990).

KILLERS (A JOURNAL OF MURDER

(16+) Thoughtful drama about an unscrupulous police officer, with James Woods and Robert Duvall. Leonard, Metro (0171-437 0757).

■ MICROSCOSM

(18+) Astonishing French film told to the world of insects. Mixed-up microscopic photoplay. Clapton Picture House (0171-493 1320). Tuesdays and Thursdays 7.30pm. Friday 7.30pm. Saturday 2.30pm. Sunday 4.30pm.

■ LA PASSIONE

(15+) Extended and

delirious music video featuring Chris Isaak's songs. Director: John Brooks. Warner (0171-437 3234).

■ THE RELIC

(15+) Monster runs a

natural history museum; girls sporting

CINEMA GUIDE

Geff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere indicated by the symbol (●)

on release across the country

■ COLEMAN KEELEIGH

(15+) Michael Gambon, Helen Mirren and Tom Sturridge.

ABC Baker Street (0171-935 9772).

Tottenham Court Road (0171-371 6148). Plaza (01992 509500). UCI White City (01992 509500). Odeon (01992 509500). Cinema: Chelsea (0171-352 5026). Trocadero (0171-334 0031). Warner (0171-437 4343).

■ WHERE WE KING (PG)

Oscar-winning portrait of the boxer Muhammad Ali. Directed by George Tillman Jr. 12a, 12b, 12c, 12d, 12e, 12f, 12g, 12h, 12i, 12j, 12k, 12l, 12m, 12n, 12o, 12p, 12q, 12r, 12s, 12t, 12u, 12v, 12w, 12x, 12y, 12z.

■ THE SCHOOL FOR WIVES

Peter Hall's production of *Malory's* droll old hen, Eric Sykes, as excellent as his finger-snapping servant *Comedy*, Panty Street, SW1 (0171-369 1771). Mon-Sat. 8pm, mat. Wed. 3pm. Sun. 4.30pm. Until July 26.

■ SKYFALL

Richard Wilson's production of *Shoemaker's Cave*, 10am-11.30am.

■ CURRENT

The English Patient (15+)

Magician Robin Wrightson with partner John Scott Trotter. Clapton Picture House (0171-493 2231). Greenwich (0181-255 0054).

■ THE RELIC

Monster runs a

natural history museum; girls sporting

■ THEATRES

ALDWICH (0171-622 0027) 8.15pm

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Tickets available on the day.

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Enthusiasm wanes for statutory interest on late payments

By RODNEY HOBSON

TODAY, as MPs debate the business proposals in the Queen's Speech, there is evidence that enthusiasm among small companies for a statutory right to interest on late payments is being dampened by their advisers. Concerns range from what size of companies will be allowed to claim interest to the cost of collecting the penalty.

Small business organisations and advisers will have ample opportunity to voice their worries. A Green Paper will be published before Parliament breaks up in July for the summer recess and the DTI is keen to carry out the widest possible consultation by the autumn.

The Bill will be steered through the Commons by Barbara Roche, the Minister for Small Business and an enthusiast for tackling the issue of late payments. The DTI points out that a range of surveys has highlighted the issue as a big worry for small businesses and that a majority see statutory interest as a possible solution. The Forum of Private Businesses, which has 24,000 members, has led the campaign for interest on late payments.

However, Robert Cressy, of the SME Centre at Warwick University, said: "If small businesses knew the reality of what a statutory right to interest would mean they would probably be less keen. They could be shooting themselves in the foot. Small businesses are net debtors rather than net creditors."

The British Chamber of Commerce went further, immediately attacking the government proposals as "ill-conceived". Ian Peters, deputy director-general, said small businesses will not be able to make the

law stick. He fears that the new Labour Government is in too much of a hurry to demonstrate its support for small businesses.

That reaction flies in the face of surveys of small businesses that make up Chamber of Commerce membership. For instance, a report by the Small Business Research Centre at Kingston University, on behalf of Office World, found that late payment was the single most important policy issue for small businesses in the run-up to the election. A statutory right to interest was the favoured solution.

Simon Lees, group product manager at Equifax, the commercial information supplier, said: "Legislation may be useful because it sets a business climate that says payments should be made within agreed terms... but small businesses will be reluctant to prejudge relations with major customers."

Mike Davis, small business services director at Barclays Bank, said: "Businesses are already free to include interest clauses in contracts in respect of late payments. This practice is not commonplace, particularly among smaller businesses, because of the time and cost involved and the impact this could have on future business."

David Miles, a partner at BDO Stoy Hayward, said: "The planned legislation seems unlikely to benefit growing businesses in general although it may be of help to those businesses that only have one-off relationships such as building contractors where late payment can too easily lead to insolvency."

Stephen Alambritis, spokesman for the Federation of Small Businesses, said businesses should do more to help themselves by taking out credit references, sending out invoices promptly to the right department and chasing up overdue accounts. He said: "Small businesses jump for joy when they get an order. Only later do they think about getting paid. An order that is supplied and not paid for is not an order, it is a gift."

He wants the courts' role toughened. "It is up to you to organise bailiffs and get the judgment enforced. The court should do that." He welcomes references in the Queen's Speech to the possibility of drawing up a blacklist of late payers and to government departments paying more promptly.

Company charts course for the final journey

By MARK ANDREWS

BURIAL at sea is usually reserved for those who die on voyage. Warships, merchant ships and cruise liners slip their dead into the deep. If you die on land and have opted for a watery grave, it is not so easy. Only 104 people have been buried at sea in the past eight years.

"It's an involved business," says Stephen Charles-Davis, head of the Britannia Shipping Company for Burial at Sea. His company, based at Newton Hopperford, Sidmouth, Devon, and seems to have cornered the market.

Mr Charles-Davis, once an osteopath, formed Britannia when his father expressed a wish to be buried at sea. He could find no one to do it — so he followed the rules and did it himself. That was ten years ago. The business now has a staff of 12, six of them part-timers. The chaplain is a retired Royal Navy padre.

Disposal of a body at sea is licensed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. You also need the authority of a coroner to take a body out of the country.

"It's tightly regulated," says Mr Charles-Davis. "There are only two places in England and Wales where you can commit a body to the deep, 11 miles off Newhaven, in East Sussex, and 2½ miles off the Needles on the Isle of Wight."

These areas are designated no-fishing and no-dredging spots. "You can't bury bodies at sea that have been embalmed, because of the toxics involved, and they must be disease free," says Mr Charles-Davis. "It's advisable to use biodegradable paper shrouds. The coffins are made from marine plywood. They're drilled with 40 two-inch diameter holes and weighted on the bottom with six hundredweight of degradable concrete. All are designed to rot after four years. So will the body — a natural process of decay, due to the action of the sea."

Britannia hires a small Isle of Wight ferry — often the *Island Rose* — and installs a tipping platform.

To ensure burial at the right spot, a retired Navy officer navigates.

Sir Ludovic Kennedy, the broadcaster, is a director of Britannia and



Stephen Charles-Davis, left, and Austin Riley, a fellow director of the Britannia burial-at-sea company.

an enthusiast for burial at sea. "The sea is the great watery womb from which our ancestors emerged," he says. "What is more natural than to be returned there?"

Britannia does two burials a month, on average. "It's never going to compete with interment and cremation," says Mr Charles-Davis. "And we're not in competition with them. We're offering a special service to a few who want it."

Cost is a big factor — conventional or cremation costs about £1,300. Burial at sea is nearly £3,000. Britannia also carries out many scatterings of ashes at sea. It

can be done by relatives from a rowing boat, but Britannia can give it a sense of occasion by providing a chaplain, or even a piper.

Mr Charles-Davis says that it is helpful if someone who wants to be buried at sea informs the company beforehand, to minimise delay in arranging to bring the body for embalming at Keyhaven, Hampshire.

Mourners can use a cabin for refreshments and music can be played as the ship reaches the burial area, for the chaplain to say a prayer for commitment to the deep.

□ Britannia: 01395 568652

The paper mountain that costs the earth

By RODNEY HOBSON

SECRETARIES have long suspected it. Now they have the evidence. The spread of electronic systems has added to the amount of paperwork and employers do not have a clue how much they are spending on consuming the world's supply of trees.

Gestetner, which started making office machinery in 1881 when it launched its stencil duplicator, has just started a consultancy division after talking to company directors about office costs.

Nigel Palmer, managing director of Gestetner Consulting, says: "The daily life of every office worker is directly affected by the technology that helps us to print, copy and present papers in endless different shapes, colours and packages. But few organisations have taken stock of how much it is costing them to produce these seemingly endless pieces of paper that pile up on our desks, in our files and in our bins."

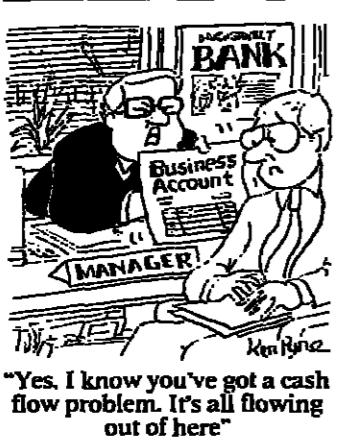
He tackled bosses and asked them how much photocopies and faxes cost. Most picked a figure that was about half the true cost.

Mr Palmer says: "A third of company directors admit that when they need papers for a meeting they simply do not give any thought to how those documents are produced." Few seemed to realise that copying in colour was far more expensive than black and white.

Mr Palmer points to the sharp increase in the use of fax machines. Fewer than 50,000 a year were sold ten years ago. Last year 600,000 were bought.

Stoker Training, Harlow College and Hertfordshire Tech Tel: Linda Johnston 01279 868200.

Almost half Britain's small businesses believe preparations for a single European currency, including new accountancy systems, pricing structures and computer equipment and software, will cost them up to £5,000, says a Lloyds TSB report. In addition, two thirds say they do not know what to do next. John Spence, Lloyds TSB's business banking managing director, wants greater clarification of the possible effects.



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Julia and Nick Richardson outside their house near Milton Keynes in Buckinghamshire. Traffic noise has made their home life "unbearable".

Battle of Eagle Farm

Jonathan Clay reports a planning decision that has prevented a farmer from building on his own land

Nick and Julia Richardson have lost their final battle in the High Court to build a new farmhouse on the land in Buckinghamshire that their family has farmed for more than 40 years. Ironically, their defeat came not long after the Government published a new Planning Policy Guidance (PPG7), which heralded the return of the "country house" to legitimate rural development.

The Richardsons' existing home had been rendered — in the judge's words — "unbearable" — because of the ever-increasing traffic on the M1 passing yards away.

Nevertheless, at the recent hearing in the High Court, Michael Rich, QC, a deputy High Court judge, upheld the planning inspector's decision to refuse permission for a new farmhouse to replace their home. In planning policy terms, it would not be a "replacement" because it was too far away from the site of the existing house in order to escape the noise, and because it is to be bought by the Highways Agency. The Richardsons could not ensure that the existing house would be demolished. A "replacement" dwelling, Mr Rich ruled, must be "on the same site as the existing house".

Mrs Richardson's parents had bought Eagle Farm in 1954, well before the M1 was carved through Buckinghamshire in 1960. In the early years of the motorway, about 20,000 vehicles a day passed on dual two-lane carriageways. By 1980, when Mr Richardson took over the running of the farm from his father-in-law, the motorway was dual three-lane and carrying about four times that amount of traffic. The heaviest flows were in the morning and

evening peak periods. Since then traffic has more than doubled again, and, as the motorway network reaches its congestion threshold, the peak hours have spread, so that for the whole of the day and much of the night the motorway is carrying huge volumes of traffic, about 20 per cent of it heavy goods vehicles. The Highways Agency now plans to widen the motorway again, by adding a fourth lane in each direction on each side.

As Mr Richardson put it: "We have a stark choice: either to remain in the existing house, where the noise level is so high that planning permission for a new house on the existing site would be automatically refused, for noise reasons alone, or find alternative accommodation in nearby Milton Keynes" as the local planning authority suggested, and which was endorsed by the planning inspector.

Their case is not simply a personal tragedy. It exposes how, in trying to protect the countryside "for its own sake" (as PPG7 puts it), the restrictions provided by the legislative and policy framework of planning, combined with the objectives of the national strategic highway network, are acting to expel a genuine farmer from his own farm.

By the chairman's casting vote, the planning committee of Milton Keynes Borough Council turned down the application for planning permission on a new site, 200 metres from the existing house. The appeal mechanism swung into action and after a two-day public inquiry, the Department of Environment inspector turned down the appeal. The inspector considered that the new house, though well designed, would cause "serious harm" to the open countryside because of its prominence in the landscape.

Such is the planning framework surrounding the coun-

tryside that a well-loved feature in the English landscape, a farmhouse on a farm, is now likely to be a harmful development in the open countryside.

The inspector considered the personal circumstances of the Richardsons and their two teenage sons and thought he found himself "greatly taxed" by them, he considered himself obliged, having regard to the planning policy and the effect on the countryside, to dismiss the appeal.

Section 54A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, as amended, creates a presumption in favour of the local planning authority, contributing to the very problem that is driving them from their home.

The Richardsons could not justify their new farmhouse on agricultural grounds because the land is largely under arable cultivation and the tight conditions "under the national

Planning Policy Guidance on new farm buildings do not generally justify a farmer living on his land."

So Mr Richardson turned to the second exception, arguing that his new house would be a "replacement" for his existing farmhouse. After all, it would be the new house of the farmer who farms the land and would be situated on the farm. This interpretation was rejected as not generally accepted; and was the judge said, "wholly misconceived".

The Richardsons and their two young sons now face the choice of bearing the unbearable, or joining the daily commuters of Milton Keynes, contributing to the very problem that is driving them from their home.

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Moving to London

During the recession, London lawyers moved out to the provinces in large numbers. This flow has now changed direction. Lawyers are moving into London. Almost half the candidates we place in the City and the West End are from regional firms. They fill positions in corporate or corporate finance, banking, insolvency, intellectual property, private client and commercial property. Movement on this scale has not been seen for years.

Other things being equal – good academic background, relevant experience – candidates from the regions are popular with London firms. They have one significant advantage: their desire to move to London raises no doubt or anxiety.

They do not have to overcome the key question facing London-based candidates: "Why is this candidate on the job market?" Moving to London – in the eyes of most City partners – is so manifestly desirable, so self-evidently intelligent, that all candidates seeking to do so are destined with sound consequences.

The converse of this is that vacancies in the regions have increased substantially. One of our candidates – a young solicitor with a City firm who wants to move to the North West – will be seeing about ten top-quality firms in the space of a week. The regional firms have never been stronger, and the time has never been better for relocating out of London.

Michael Chambers

CHAMBERS' DIRECTORY

Our legal directory is available from Batsford, (01403 - 710571)

INDUSTRY Sonya Rayner, Fiona Boxall, Morwenna Lewis, Alison Shepherd

Tax Professionals: City

Major int'l firm seeks solns with ATII qualification to undertake consultancy work servicing high net worth individuals. Top package.

Engineering Lawyer: Midlands

Commercial lawyer with at least 5 yrs' experience for key operating division of major group. Must have sound commercial acumen and enjoy working closely with management. Experience of electrical and mechanical engineering contracts essential.

Employee Benefits: London

Commercially motivated solns 0-3 yrs' ppe needed to specialise in executive compensation consultancy. Experience of employee benefits is not required.

PRIVATE PRACTICE LONDON: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson

SOUTH: Helen Mills, Noel Murray NORTH: Suki Bahra, Paul Thomas

Partnership Positions

We have been assisting partners seeking a career move for over 20 years now and are regularly placing several partners each month.

Company/Commercial: Holborn

Thriving practice offers 0-2 year qualified solicitor opportunity to use fluent French or German. Broad caseload including IP, M&A, commercial, etc.

Shipping Litigation: Far East

We have instructions from a leading shipping firm for dry shipping assistants from newly to 5 years qualified for their Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai offices.

Commercial Property: City

Overseas travel and 'number two' slot offered to 2-4 year qualified solicitor by mid-sized firm with strong international commercial property clientele.

Insolvency: City

Friendly, medium sized City firm seeks 3-4 year qualified insolvency lawyer to handle both contentious and non-contentious insolvency. Excellent prospects.

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LONDON OPPORTUNITIES

MAINSTREAM BANKING £125-300,000+

Prestigious international firm with excellent capital markets, derivatives and project reputation is seeking an additional mainstream banker whose role will be to help develop the firm's UK relationships and reputation, broadening the range of finance work. You will come from a top 20 City firm and want to join a department which is really making a name in the City but where there is still the opportunity to manage a team and make a difference. (Ref:0454)

INTERNATIONAL CORP FTE 100+ £45,000+

Our client is an international industrial company restricted to its profitable and proactive. They are seeking a 4-6 year corporate lawyer to be based ideally in London, from a top 100 to be based in London and deal with international corporate transactions. The company encourages lawyers to progress their career in the medium term outside the legal department. (Ref:0955)

US FIRM - ASSISTANT £40-60,000

Looking for a change of environment, interesting work, and an international/US emphasis, why not consider an American law firm? Quality at the New York Bar, work on exchange between New York and London and be well compensated for your time. Already established in London, this firm seeks senior and international corporate/PMA lawyers, 1-6 years qualified, for phase two of its expansion plan. (Ref:5240)

EMPLOYMENT TO £42,000

Employee team at highly progressive London practice is gaining increasing market share. Offering expertise in both contentious and non-contentious areas, the team has been involved in some very high profile matters and the steady flow of new instructions has created the need for a talented 2-3 year qualified solicitor. You will combine demonstrable skills in this type of work and general client skills. If you are clearly of particular note, the firm will not hesitate to fast track your career. (Ref:0363)

KOREA - EMERGING MARKETS COMPETITIVE

International law firm with strong presence in expanding South East Asia and Eastern markets. Our client is looking to assist in the development of its Korean practice. Applications from broad networks of both UK and Korean law (particularly insurance and banking), knowledge of doing business in the Pacific Rim and, ideally, will be able to speak and write fluent Korean and English. Based in London, you can expect to spend time working in Korea from time to time. (Ref:9067)

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY £35-40,000

City practice, highly regarded as a market leader for property, requires a number of lawyers, 1-4 years' qualified to deal with increasing work in its prospering property, development and PFI teams. If you have relevant experience, are prepared to work hard and have partnership aspirations, then in return you will get high quality work and an excellent remuneration package. (Ref:2024)

GENERAL COMMERCIAL £32,000

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Damages awards against US media average \$2.8 million, reports James Zirin

Huge verdicts in libel cases are back in vogue in America. Despite all the legal obstacles, the average damages award in libel and privacy cases against the media in 1996 was \$2.8 million (about £1.7 million), significantly up from the 1995 average of \$1.6 million.

On March 20, a seven-person Houston federal court jury awarded a record \$22.7 million in compensatory and punitive damages against the company that publishes *The Wall Street Journal* and one of the *Journal's* reporters. The plaintiff, a defunct brokerage, claimed it had been forced out of business by an article containing at least eight false statements about its financial and business practices. Commenting on the staggering verdict, the managing editor of the *Journal* explained that the paper merely chronicled the difficulties of the brokerage; it did not cause them.

Last December a Miami jury returned a \$10 million libel verdict against ABC in favour of Alan Levan, Bank Atlantic's chairman, and his BFC Financial Corp. Mr Levan claimed that the network defamed him in a programme that was highly critical of a real-estate-for-bonds 'swap' he had engineered. The jury regarded the programme as a hatchet job on Levan's character.

Highly publicised settle-

In the land of the multimillion libel

ments have added fuel to the fire. Consider the case of Richard Jewell, the Atlanta security guard investigated by the FBI last summer in connection with the bombing at the Atlanta Olympics. After the FBI dropped Mr Jewell as a suspect, he won cash settlements from NBC and CNN and filed a libel suit against the *Atlanta Constitution* for implying that Mr Jewell was the man responsible.

The paper has said it will fight the case because it considers that the suit puts at issue its credibility and reputation.

In 1964, when the Supreme Court in *New York Times v Sullivan* decided that constitutional free-press guarantees permitted a public figure to sue for libel only if there has been shown by "clear and convincing evidence" either "knowledge of the falsity" or a "reckless disregard for the truth", many thought it effectively sounded the death knell on defamation claims in America. The court reasoned that the first remedy of any victim of defamation is self-help: countering the false statement by effective communication, and public figures normally enjoy greater access to the media than private persons who may lack effective means of rebuttal.

There was a further underpinning to the court's reasoning. Public figures have chosen to assume positions of special prominence in society. A prominent footballer has eagerly performed under the spotlight of media attention. The court considers that the media are entitled to assume that public figures have voluntarily exposed themselves to increased risk of injury from defamatory falsehood.

A public figure may have achieved such fame or notoriety that he or she becomes a public figure for all purposes or may, through participation in the controversy giving rise to the defamation, become a "limited purpose public figure" who has thus "thrust himself into the vortex of public opinion." A "limited purpose public figure" could be

almost anyone newsworthy. The Supreme Court in *Sullivan* effectively threw a monkey wrench into the ancient libel machinery. It is almost impossible to prove either that a news organisation knowingly published a false statement or published a statement uncaring whether it was true or false. Such matters involve probing someone's state of mind. And that is often difficult to prove.

Some public figures, however, have not been daunted by the obstacles. General William Westmoreland sued CBS

six years ago, claiming that he had been libelled by the suggestion that he had deliberately understated enemy troop strength in Vietnam. To the consternation of his supporters, he capitulated, withdrawing the case just before it was to go to the jury. General Ariel Sharon sued *Time* magazine for suggesting that the secret report of an Israeli investigative commission had held him responsible for a massacre of civilians in Lebanon. The jury decided for *Time*, finding the statements in the magazine



Richard Jewell, above, unfairly accused, and Erik Williams, who claimed a story against him was concocted

false but published without knowledge of the falsity or reckless disregard for the truth. Both lawsuits, though unsuccessful in court, served to rebut the unfounded published reports.

Juries hostile to the media have returned large damages awards in suits brought by public figures. Such awards, however, are in most cases overturned on appeal. Since *Sullivan*, more than 50 per cent of plaintiffs' verdicts in libel cases have been reversed on appeal, compared with a 17 per cent reversal rate in federal civil cases overall.

Back in Texas, the latest action involves the reporting of a police investigation into charges later established to be unfounded. After Erik Wil-



• The author is a lawyer with the New York law firm Brown & Wood.



Tite, left, and Lewis: link with Coopers & Lybrand

ROBIN MAYERES

Edward Fennell reports on a developing strategy in the City that will have implications for law firms

Birth of the mega-biz?

Nothing stands still for long in the law business. Just a fortnight ago there were celebrations for a decade of dominance of the London scene by Clifford Chance and the success of its international formula.

But already it seems that this formula, now adopted by an elite group of half a dozen firms, may have to change within the next five years.

The party-poopers are the big accountancy firms. Throughout the City's legal community, the realisation has dawned within the last week or two that there can be no possibility of mistaking the seriousness with which the big City accountancy outfits intend to tackle legal services.

Just how far they had intended to go has been a matter of

speculation since Garretts was established with the backing of Arthur Andersen in the early 1990s. This was followed by Coopers & Lybrand, which agreed terms with Tite & Lewis, and Price Waterhouse with its Arnhem & Co initiative.

Andersen now positions itself as an all-round "business adviser" and legal advice is a key part of the service. Peter Wyman, Coopers & Lybrand's tax chief, acknowledges that the Andersen initiative has "changed the market" and that for his firm, too, "integrated legal and accounting services" will be important. And

KPMG, which has no law firm in the UK, is now looking hard at the possibility of developing one (or, more likely, a group of associated regional firms).

So the period of market testing is ending, and the results are positive. People such as Julia Chain, who heads Garretts, says the last couple of years have confirmed that many clients want integrated, multidisciplinary business-advice services.

Christopher Tite and Mark Lewis have had the same experience. Because of a link with Coopers & Lybrand, they reckon that Tite & Lewis will have

doubled in size by the end of the year. They are receiving work from Coopers' existing clients and Coopers is gaining clients through Tite & Lewis.

The new formula of being part of a service that provides all-round business advice rather than simply technical skills is attractive to those who are still fairly new to the profession. But it could take a decade before the top firms feel under any pressure.

There has been gossip for a few months about Garretts again leading the way in seeking a merger with a large City firm. It pulled off a coup in Spain by linking with

Garrigues, probably the country's most respected and modern law firm. Now, Andersen, through Garretts, is likely to do something roughly similar in London. When that happens, it will send shock waves around the City. Not only important in itself, it will also, almost certainly, force the hands of the other accountancy-based firms.

And remember, the real impetus for change comes from exactly the same arguments as made by Chance and Freshfields about their own growth. The biggest corporate clients want global services. Mr Tite and Mr Lewis say: "Coopers & Lybrand can already provide them on a scale bigger than the largest City law firms can offer and that is where the accountants have the edge."

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

CITY FIRMS • BANKS • INDUSTRY • CITY FIRMS • BANKS • INDUSTRY

EU/COMPETITION

Senior Assistant - Brussels
A dynamic City practice is seeking a highly qualified Senior Assistant to join its Brussels office. The firm's workload has expanded dramatically in recent times specifically in the IT telecoms market which is a major factor in its expansion. As well as having first class experience in the EU/Competition field, the successful candidate must be ready for new challenges and have the confidence, maturity and ambition necessary to start up an operation of this kind. The financial rewards are excellent with the genuine prospect of rapid partnership. Ref:T00254R.

PRIVATE CLIENT

Partner Designate
to £90,000
Leading international City firm requires a senior assistant/partner to replace a partner who is leaving the practice. Opportunity to take on an established practice and to assist in the further development of the international element of the firm. The position is concerned with maintaining a private client department and offers partnership for the right applicant. Substantial practice which offers a high degree of stability for the future. Ref:T00272C.

Visit our website for salary advice

www.garfieldrobbins.com

TAX

Tax Officer
This tax department in the City has recently recruited several well-known tax specialists for their creativity in devising new tax products, particularly in relation to cross-border matters. It now seeks to augment its team by the addition of a further tax specialist from a well known City or provincial law firm. Good contacts and reputation in this field are essential. Ref:T10401G.

BANKING

2 to 4 Years Qualified
to £60,000
A major UK bank is looking to recruit a lawyer to handle a broad range of activities. This will include drafting and negotiating banking agreements, working on special projects and dealing with sophisticated financial products in the capital markets area and giving legal support to client units. The position is concerned with getting involved with companies with some capital markets experience. This role would suit someone who works well independently and is ready to take on responsibility at a junior level. Ideally, candidates will be from one of the known banking firms or at a major bank. Ref:T10503E.

to £60,000

& Partnership

This tax department in the City has recently recruited several well-known tax specialists for their creativity in devising new tax products, particularly in relation to cross-border matters. It now seeks to augment its team by the addition of a further tax specialist from a well known City or provincial law firm. Good contacts and reputation in this field are essential. Ref:T10401G.

EMPLOYMENT

2 to 5 Years Qualified
to £60,000

An employment lawyer with a mix of contentious and non-contentious experience is now sought by this leading employment practice with a first class reputation. The department is particularly well known for its heavy-weight Industrial Tribunal work as well as its innovative thinking and ability to devise new employment concepts. Very sought after position. Ref:T10104C.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL - IN-HOUSE

6 to 8 Years Qualified
Excellent Package
Leading multi-national Pic is seeking a high calibre commercial lawyer to join its legal department. Candidates should have a strong academic background and preferably be from a leading City or provincial firm. The role will involve both corporate and commercial transactions, therefore candidates should have good experience in both of these areas. A rare opportunity to join the established legal department of a leading company that is known for its friendly and professional working environment. Ref:T11518J.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

2 to 5 Years Qualified
£60,000
Originally a small firm that has rapidly expanded to become a medium sized practice and is now a large force in the corporate market, is seeking yet another assistant to join a well structured and supported department. Successful applicants will handle a mix of commercial and corporate work for mainly UK companies (public and private) many of which are in the media and entertainment field. Ref:T11553D.

Please contact Dominique W Pengelly, Alison Barrett or Gavin Crocker (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 411 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings Weekends 0181 960 6144 Confidential Fax 0171 411 1444 Email: dominique@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

IN-HOUSE

OVERSEAS

PRACTICE

European Eminent Counsel - Germany
A world leading US IT multinational is looking to recruit a European qualified lawyer, at least 3 years qualified, with employment/HR experience gained ideally in-house. Ref:29561NT.

Finance Counsel - South East of France
This well known Anglo-French joint venture requires a circa 2 year qualified banking and finance lawyer to work with and provide advice to the Group Treasurer. Ref:29739NT.

European Corporate Counsel - London
This prestigious global investment bank urgently requires a 3 to 8 year qualified City solicitor with broad corporate and, in particular, M&A experience. Ref:12160NT.

European Comm/IP - South West
A household name US multinational seeks a 3 to 7 year qualified in-house lawyer who currently handles a European or international commercial role including IP issues. Ref:29551NT.

Commercial Prop/L & T - Surrey
This diversified UK group is looking to recruit a 2 to 5 year qualified lawyer (or possibly a senior legal executive) with previous commercial property and, in particular, L&T experience. Ref:29727NT.

Compliance Officer - London
This global US bank is seeking a newly to 18 month qualified lawyer, preferably with regulatory/retail banking knowledge, to join a small team. An excellent package is on offer. Ref:29778NT.

Contact Naveen Tuli or Rachael North

Amsterdam - In-House

As the Netherlands becomes an increasingly popular location for US multinationals, the demand for continental lawyers to move in-house has never been higher.

Naveen Tuli, head of our In-House (Overseas) Division, will be travelling to Amsterdam towards the end of the month on behalf of a major household name US multinational looking to recruit a Legal Counsel for Northern Europe.

If you are interested in exploring opportunities in the Netherlands and have qualified on the continent or have relevant languages, please call Naveen Tuli.

Worldwide - Practice

With over 100 jobs in 25 countries throughout the world, we are extremely well placed to help commercial lawyers in all disciplines looking to spend some time working in another jurisdiction.

New jobs within the last week include positions for corporate, litigation and construction lawyers in Hong Kong and for a newly qualified shipping litigator in Singapore.

For further information or to discuss any aspect of working overseas in private practice, please contact Daniel Lewis.

LONDON

Commercial Property - 1-4 Years
This dynamic commercial firm has opportunities for 2 property solicitors. The work will include L&T and retail business park matters. Ref:2161F.

Company/Commercial - 2-5 Years

This large West End firm with an excellent reputation in the corporate field needs 2 lawyers to handle mainly transactional with some venture capital work. Ref:1490LF.

Private Client

1-2 Years
A leading City firm has a requirement for a tax and estate planning lawyer to undertake a variety of work, including acting for educational and other charitable organisations. Ref:2041SK.

Personal Injury - NO 3 and 5 Years

This small successful North London firm has opportunities for two litigators. The more senior should ideally be qualified for panel membership.

NATIONWIDE

Private Client
One of the foremost regional practices in the South has a thriving private client department. Excellent opportunities for advancement await a solicitor with not less than 2 years experience of trust and tax planning work and an interest in investment management. Ref:1219AF.

Comm Lit - Partnership - Manchester

This is an excellent opportunity for a senior litigator to join the thriving litigation dept of this major national practice at partner level. Ref:2123AF.

Contact Jane Foster, Samantha Knowles or Andre Field

LAURENCE SIMONS

International Legal Recruitment

London Positions

NEWLY QUALIFIED LAWYERS

£30,000

Early indications suggest that demand for September qualifiers will be strong - although many City firms have yet to finalise their requirements in relation to their own 'home grown' products, we are now receiving instructions from several leading Central London practices in a variety of disciplines. If you regard yourself as having had good training, with a strong academic background, the next few months will see a variety of positions available in a mixture of specialisations.

CONSTRUCTIONS PROJECTS

to £54,000

Particularly well managed City firm seeks a construction/projects/PFI lawyer with not less than four years' pge. You should have experience in concession, PFI, construction and, preferably, power purchase agreements in addition to building contracts and consultants appointments. Sitting within the Construction Group you will also play a prominent role in the projects area.

CAPITAL MARKETS

to £80,000

Looking to join a fledgling global securities team, you will have experience of either debt and/or equity capital markets

International Software and Design Services Company

EUROPEAN COUNSEL

M4 Corridor

To £75,000 + Benefits

With an annual turnover approaching \$1 billion, our US multinational client, is a rapidly growing market leader in the provision of high technology business solutions. It supplies unmatched technology design expertise and consultancy services in the field of EDA, to blue chip corporates in the Aerospace, Automotive, Computer, Consumer, Electronics, Military, Semiconductor and Telecommunications industries.

You will play a key role managing your own legal department, driving forward the structuring and negotiation of sophisticated and high value customer contracts including software licensing, design services and outsourcing agreements, on a pan-European basis. This will involve working closely with the Vice President of European Corporate Services and also liaising with the General Counsel in the US.

Committed to the in-house sector and with between three and ten years' pge, you will be a commercial lawyer from either private practice or in-house, with the necessary mastery of complex international IT contracts, as well as the intellectual property and EU law issues involved. You will be a proactive self-starter, with a flexibility of approach to meet your clients needs.

This appointment is seen as fundamental to the Company's continued success and expansion, involving extensive travel throughout Europe. As such, an excellent remuneration package is on offer, including an executive car, pension and comprehensive benefits programme.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams or Rebecca Errington on 0171-405 6062 (0171-359 6660 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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TEAM LEADER AND CASE OFFICERS

6 Years' Plus pge and 0-4 Years' pge

Established under the Financial Services Act 1986, the PIA is the regulator of 4,000 firms, from banks and life assurance companies through to unit trust managers and independent financial advisors.

At the cutting edge of a rapidly developing area of law, we now seek to recruit the following in the Litigation Department of the Enforcement Division:

• Team Leader

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For an application package, please send a large (A4) self-addressed envelope, quoting the appropriate Ref., to the Personnel Department, 133 Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QA. Closing Date: 3rd June 1997.

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Partnership

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CORPORATE To £65,000

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For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Greg Abrahams, Sarah David or Jonathan Marsden (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-359 6660 or 0171-789 7704 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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CONSTRUCTION LITIGATION To £65,000

This is an unusual chance for a construction lawyer with 1-5 years' pge to get in on the ground floor of this leading national firm sets up a construction practice in London with a real bang and some cutting-edge masters. The prospects here are brilliant if you make the move now. Ref: T40087

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This is a very big opportunity for a senior corporate tax lawyer willing to take on an already successful tax practice at a well-known medium-sized City firm and make it even better. Given the strength of its corporate practice, this firm will pay what it takes to get the right lawyer. Ref: T40181

ENERGY

An exciting opportunity for an energy lawyer - or a corporate/commercial lawyer keen to get into the field - with 2-6 years' pge to join the London office of this major national firm and help build up the fledgling practice. Ideally you will have joint venture and Spanish or other language skills. Ref: T34034

FINANCIAL LITIGATION

To £70,000 Excellent partnership prospect at this top 20 City firm for a financial lawyer with 3-6 years' pge who will help develop further an already successful fraud practice. You will need substantial City/landmark litigation experience, and if you have, you will be very well rewarded. Ref: T39333

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To £65,000 This is a rare opportunity for a senior planning lawyer to join a well-established medium-sized firm such as this and build a practice on the back of a booming property department. You will have a good background and good contacts, as well as the drive and ability to make a success of this venture. Ref: T40048

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PARTNER DESIGNATE 5 YEARS PLUS
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CONSTRUCTION-LITIGATION 4-7 YEARS PQE
Many of this construction group's clients are well known contractors, civil engineering companies, developers, local authorities, other public authorities and funding institutions. They can offer a challenging and positive environment for an able and ambitious junior lawyer with construction litigation experience. Some non-contentious experience would be advantageous as would an engineering background. Ref: 3968. Contact: Jane Glassberg.

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Have you completed your training contract feeling that the opportunities that have presented themselves do not meet your requirements? Then why not consider applying for two City based NQs to fill a Ship Finance vacancy at a specialist medium sized firm and an IP/IT position within one of the most respected international firms. Ref: 4243. Contact: Peter Conder.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY PARTNER
Charming medium-sized commercial firm with attractive location in central London continues to expand its IP practice. The partnership invites a further partner to swell its ranks. Will appeal to senior associate or existing partner banking after a happier and particularly friendly working environment. A special opportunity - must bring following. Ref: 3569. Contact: Clive Dunn.

EMPLOYMENT - IN HOUSE 4-7 YEARS PQE
An international company offers a rare opportunity for an employment lawyer with strong contentious and non-contentious experience. You will be dealing with a high volume of work much of which will be extremely complex, challenging and have an international component. A robust and self-confident solicitor will thrive in this fast-moving environment. French language ability an advantage. Ref: 3704. Contact: Paul Rousset.

CORPORATE ENTERTAINMENT 1-5 YEARS PQE
This is a rare opportunity for corporate lawyers to branch out into the entertainment field and for a little colour into their lives! Dynamic, medium-sized firm, renowned for its corporate and entertainment expertise requires young lawyers to handle a diverse range of corporate work for blue-chip clients from the entertainment world who are household names. Ref: 1777. Contact: Pandora Close.

PARTNER DESIGNATE - TELECOMMUNICATIONS 4-7 YEARS PQE
With solid experience gained within a City Firm or Telecommunications Company you will have been involved in all forms of corporate work within the industry. Acting for a variety of clients including investors in the UK cable and telecommunications industries you will also advise on financing, subscriber agreements and may have negotiations. Outside the UK you will help formulate national policies with respect to liberalization in the industry. Ref: 1505. Contact: Peter Godden.

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PSD

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In addition to technical expertise, a lively sense of humour and the ability to be an effective team-player are essential. In return, highly-competitive remuneration packages are offered for those who can demonstrate flair and ability.

To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence, please telephone Claire Hine (LLB (Hons)) or Niru Chandra LLB (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to either of them at the address below.

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QD IN-HOUSE LEGAL

JUNIOR OIL Scotland To £Market Rate
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EMPLOYEE BENEFITS/SHARE SCHEMES To £Comp.
International consultancy seeks an experienced employee benefits consultant to join growing Compensation Team. With either a legal or accountancy background you will have between 3-6 years' relevant experience in the executive compensation and share scheme area ideally gained with a top City law firm or accountancy practice. Excellent opportunity to combine your professional skills in a commercial environment. Ref: TC25684

FINANCIAL SERVICES £Various
High profile regulatory body seeks ambitious contentious lawyers 1-4 years' pge preferably with focused FSA experience to join their investigation and prosecution teams to advise on issues arising from membership, disciplinary and enforcement functions. A pro-active and robust personality is essential. Ref: TC40194

For further information in complete confidence, please contact Rebecca Errington, 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394.



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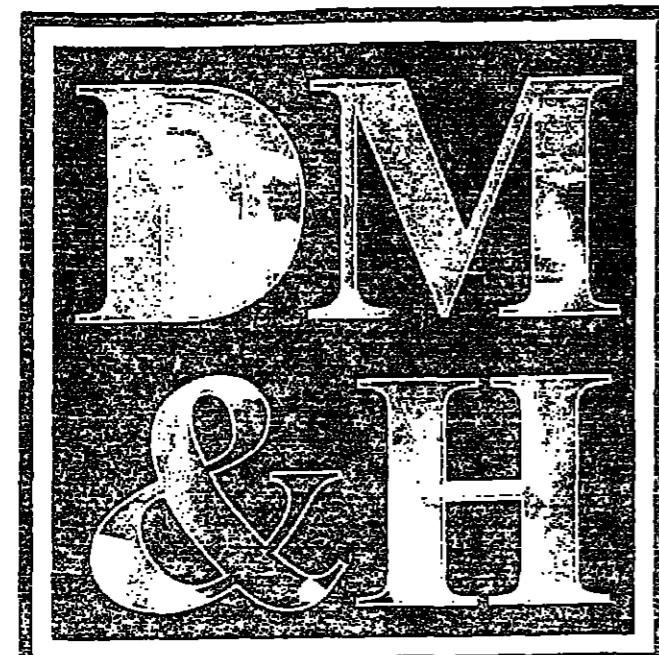
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IP/MEDIA To £Competitive

Major broadcasting house based in Central London seeks two further lawyers to join their business affairs team focusing on both drama and radio. A great opportunity to join a strong, established team where the work is demanding and early responsibility is high. Media lawyers at the 3-5 year level with production experience should apply. Ref: TC39642

Michelle McGregor or June Madrid (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0171-357 0912 evenings/weekends) or write to them at QD In-House Legal, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-631 6394.



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The Lord Chancellor invites applications from suitably qualified persons for appointment to the office of District Judge. Successful applicants will be recommended to the Lord Chancellor for appointment as District Judge to fill vacancies arising on all circuits between 1 April 1998 and 31 March 1999.

Applicants must have held a right of audience in any class of proceedings in the Supreme Court or in all proceedings in the county courts or Magistrates' Courts for a period of 7 years. They should normally be aged between 40 and 60 on 1 April 1998 and have served in the office of Deputy District Judge (not necessarily on the circuit to which they seek assignment as a District Judge) for a period of 2 years, or completed 40 or more sittings, prior to that date.

The Lord Chancellor will appoint the candidates who appear to him to be best qualified regardless of ethnic origin, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, political affiliation, religion or (subject to the physical requirements of the office) disability.

An application form, together with a job description and note of the criteria for appointment, information about the expected number and location of vacancies and further information for applicants, is available by telephoning 0171 210 1464 (an answering machine will operate outside normal office hours) or by writing to:

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Lord Chancellor's Department
Selborne House
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LONDON SW1E 6QW

Completed application forms must be returned by noon on Friday 20 June 1997.

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PP/LONDON

Corporate to £90K
City/London based US firm seeks lawyers 11G-SPQE to work on M&A, M&As & project finance matters. City candidates only.

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Construction to 250K
London: Several leading City/Holborn firms seek solicitors 1-4PQE to handle contentious and/or non-contentious work.

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Far East: niche practice seeks litigators 1G-SPQE for Hong Kong, Singapore and Shanghai offices to handle dry shipping.

Corp/Commercial to £50K
Middle East: Leading UK firm seeks lawyers for positions in their Dubai, Abu Dhabi offices. Must have City background.

Prof Negligence to £25K
Bristol: National firm seeks NQ lawyer with insurance exp to specialise in defendant professional negligence litigation.

Corp/Commercial to £50K
Becoming: Dynamic firm seeks lawyers 1G-SPQE to deal with M&As, mergers & acquisitions and Yellow Book work.

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City: Stockbrokers seek two lawyers, one for a capital markets role, the other for documentation work.

IT/Commercial to £50K
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Corp/Commercial to £50K
Survey: Commodities trading co. seeks corporate/banking lawyers 2-4PQE to join fast moving in-house team.

Prop Finance to £60K
City: London office of overseas bank seeks lawyer with 3-6PQE. Trust experience an advantage. Marketing skills essential.

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city

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eu/competition

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to £60,000

Prominent City firm with offices in Brussels and Paris has a thriving and successful practice in monopoly and merger enquiries, investigations under EU/UK competition rules, advice on general issues of EU law and the regulation of media and broadcast. You have up to around 4 years' first rate experience and a desire for a challenging and wide-ranging workload. ready for the career move. Contact Stephen Watkins Ref: 10629

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You are a solicitor or barrister with substantial oil industry experience. Your thorough knowledge of the commercial and legal principles applicable to agreements encountered in exploration, appraisal, development and production are complemented by excellent drafting and negotiating skills.



5

Media Lawyers

Channel 5 invites applications for the following posts:

- Business Affairs. The role involves the negotiation and drafting of agreements for commissioned and acquired programming, copyright and rights issues generally, research into legislation affecting the industry and the drafting and negotiation of commercial agreements.
- Business Affairs/Compliance. A mixed role. The compliance team monitors all commissioned programming and provides support to a team of viewers for acquired programming, in ensuring compliance with Channel 5's ITC obligations. Experience of defamation either in a contentious or non-contentious capacity is essential.

In both cases, sound IT experience and drafting skills are essential together with the ability to work confidently as part of a team supporting colleagues at all levels of the business. Applications for a part-time role would be welcomed from those with highly relevant experience either in industry or private practice.

Please apply in writing, enclosing a CV and details of current salary to: Carmel Swift, Channel 5 Broadcasting, 22 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LY. Closing date for applications is Friday 30th May 1997.

Channel 5 is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

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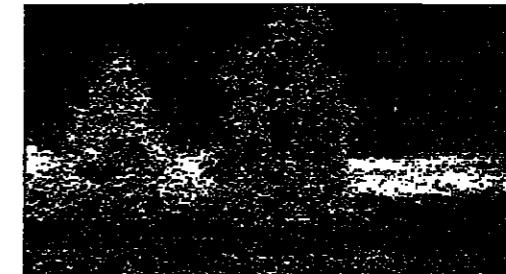
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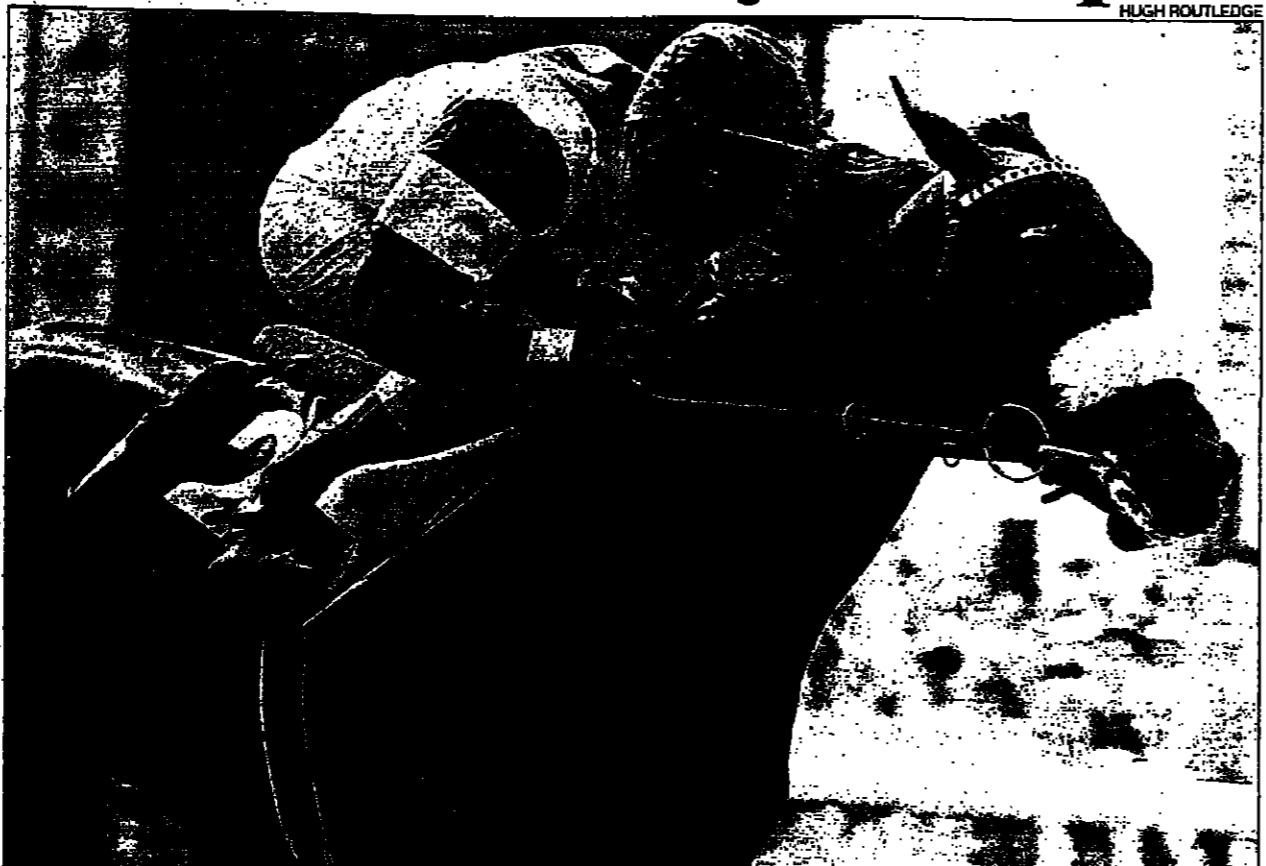
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RACING: FABRE-TRAINED COLT TO REPRESENT SHEIKH MOHAMMED IN DERBY

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

CLOUDINGS, owned by Sheikh Mohammed, will ensure that the world's largest owner is represented in the Derby, despite the temporary closure of the Sheikh's Godolphin stable. Unless the ground is rock-hard at Epsom on June 7, Cloudings will run on the recommendation of his trainer, André Fabre.

The son of Sadler's Wells is expected to be ridden by Olivier Peltier, who, in the wake of Godolphin's tribulations, seems certain to lose the Derby mount aboard Benny The Dip to Frankie Dettori. With Happy Valentine having been removed from the betting yesterday, Godolphin's last



HUGH ROLLEDGE

Nap: GRAPESHOT
(3.40 Goodwood)
Next best: MONAASSIB
(4.45 Goodwood)

Derby possibility is Stowaway, entered at Doncaster on Saturday but far from certain to run.

Peltier partnered the John Gosden-trained Benny The Dip to win the Dante Stakes at York last week but Gosden, whose Stanley House stables has first claim on Dettori, is anxious that the Italian should renew his partnership with Benny The Dip.

It was Peltier who rode Cloudings last time out, when the colt worked hard to master the handicapper, Zenith Rose, in the slowly run Prix Lupin at Longchamp nine days ago. Nevertheless, Fabre's endorsement of Cloudings will see the colt's odds tumble from the 33-1 widely available.

Historically, Fabre has been

reliant to send anything other than suitable candidates to Epsom. Anthony Stroud, racing manager to Sheikh Mohammed, said yesterday: "The trainer likes Cloudings. He describes him as a well-balanced colt, who should be comfortable around the course. He is improving and he has a good turn of foot, and Fabre has reminded us we should not be afraid of his horse. Cloudings deserves his chance but he must obviously improve to take a hand."

In view of Fabre's opinion of Cloudings, the colt may have

been unsuited to the testing surface at Longchamp last time. Entrepreneur's connections will hardly lose sleep over the participation of Cloudings, but the colt does some badly needed depth to the Derby field.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Mo-

hammed is likely to be repre-

sented in the Prix du Jockey-

Club (French Derby) by

Perfect Paradigm, whose

sights have been raised from

the Italian equivalent.

Trained, like Benny The Dip,

by Gosden, Perfect Paradigm

comfortably defied top weight

in a Chester handicap earlier this month and Flirting Around, who chased him home, has since prevailed at York. But Apprehension, another in the Sheikh's livery, to miss the Derby in favour of the King Edward VII Stakes at Royal Ascot.

David Loder, who trains Apprehension, may yet be represented at Epsom by In-

discret, who contests the final

recognised Derby trial, the

Westminster Taxi Insurance

Predominante Stakes (3.40), at

Goodwood today. But Indis-

cret only just scrambled

home in a poor race at Beverley ten days ago; he is best watched.

Grapeshot is a more attrac-

tive proposition. An honest

colt, he ran well in defeat

behind Desert Story in the

Craven Stakes last time and

that form is a cut above

anything yet recorded by his

five opponents. Conon Falls

represents the Gosden stable,

but he seemed sure to appreci-

ate further than this ten fur-

longs when successful over the

trip in minor company at

Chester recently. He looks the

one Grapeshot has to beat.

BCC2

4.20: Broad River enjoyed a recent confidence booster at Redcar and could be well treated. However, his inex-

perience causes concern.

The handicapper seems to have

Zaima's measure, while

Green Jewel may be an-

chored by a 4lb rise. Just

Nick, a good second to

Tayseer at York last week,

merits the vote to continue his progress.

TODAY'S RACES
ON TELEVISION

3.10: Both Diligence and Be My Wish showed promise at Chester recently. They could both be up against a born speedster in Shegardi, who cost 200,000 guineas as a yearling. A half-brother to Titus Livius, Shegardi should not fail through inexperience.

3.40: see left.

BCC2

4.10: Gold Spats shaped with promise on his Kempton return, giving the impression we have yet to see the best of him. He should again account for Star Talent, Capilano Prin-

cress looks the danger after a

convincing recent victory.

JULIAN MUSCAT

RUGBY UNION

Lions get early exposure to heat exhaustion

FROM DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT, IN DURBAN

IF SUCCESSFUL tours are built on sweat — the blood and tears may come later — then the 1997 British Lions have started well. The players perspired in 80F of South African heat at King's Park here yesterday, the solitary exception being Paul Grayson, who is likely to miss the opening game on Saturday against an Eastern Province Invitation XV.

South African officials have been allocated to the provincial matches, but the international referees invited to officiate at the three internationals — Paddy O'Brien, of New Zealand, Joel Dumé, of France, and Peter Marshall, of Australia — must be confirmed by their respective unions.

In the light of this, the players endured a heavy programme with the scrum-machine at King's Park as the front-row men tried to discover each other's foibles. Keith Wood, for example, is taller than the other two hookers, Mark Regan and Barry Wilms (whose transfer from



Grayson: muscle reaction

Neath to Richmond was confirmed yesterday, so there was a stream of advice and encouragement from the two senior front-row forwards, Jason Leonard and David Young.

But the Britons have also to beware the Super 12 entertainment trap. Referees are encouraged to keep play fluid, bonus points are available for try-scoring and crowds have flocked to watch the better teams, notably Auckland Blues, Wellington Hurricanes and the ACT Brumbies. Test match rugby is still different, simply because of the sheer competitiveness of it," McGeechan said.

"We need to understand what the referee will be

England players get quickly into stride

ENGLAND'S travel-weary players got down to business yesterday after arriving in Argentina for the start of their three-week tour. Phil de Glanville, the captain, led the 30-man squad through a light training session in Cordoba, where England tackle Argentina's state champions under-21s.

"There is no time to find our feet. We've got to go out there and get on with the job immediately. I want to win all six matches, especially both Tests against Argentina."

De Glanville's Bath colleague, the wing, Adedayo Adebayo, is confident he will make the starting line-up against Cordoba, despite an ankle injury. He is among 11 full internationals in the four

and Cordoba certainly have an opportunity to catch us cold, given that we play them barely 48 hours after stepping off a plane.

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The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

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10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0 -12
10102	N Walker	Aberdeen	1.00	0 -14
10201	D Seaman	Arsenal	5.00	0 +36
10202	V Bartman	Arsenal	0.75	0 0
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0 +1
10301	M Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50	0 +31
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	0 +17
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00	0 -7
10402	S Gilpin	Blackburn Rovers	2.00	0 +4
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0 +8
10502	S Kerr	Celtic	3.00	0 +30
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0 +10
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0 -28
10603	F Grodus	Chelsea	3.00	0 +5 -4
10701	S Ognzovic	Coventry City	1.50	0 -42
10702	J Filan	Coventry City	0.50	0 0
10801	M Taylor	Derby County	1.00	0 -2
10802	R Hoult	Derby County	1.00	0 -41
10804	M Poom	Derby County	1.00	0 -8
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50	0 +4
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0 -10
10903	S Dykes	Dundee United	2.50	0 -2
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0 -59
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0 -36
11103	P Gerrard	Hearts	2.00	0 +5 -5
11201	J Rees	Hibernian	1.50	0 -30
11301	J Leighton	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 -33
11401	D Djokovic	Leeds United	1.50	0 +5
11501	M Beeney	Leeds United	0.25	0 0
11602	P Evans	Leeds United	2.50	0 +40
11603	N Martyn	Leicester City	1.00	0 -19
11601	K Poole	Leicester City	1.00	0 +10
11701	D James	Liverpool	0.50	0 0
11702	T Warner	Liverpool	1.00	0 0
11703	J Nielsen	Liverpool	1.00	0 0
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00	0 +8
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00	0 +2
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -20
11903	B Roberts	Middlesbrough	1.50	0 -8
11904	M Schwarzer	Middlesbrough	2.00	0 -3
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0 -20
12101	S Histon	Newcastle United	4.00	0 -18
12102	P Smicer	Newcastle United	3.00	0 +20
12201	M Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50	0 -5
12202	A Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75	0 -5
12301	S Thomson	Rangers	5.00	0 +29
12402	A Goram	Rangers	3.50	0 +4
12501	D Dibble	Sheffield Wednesday	1.00	0 -15
12502	M Clarke	Sheffield Wednesday	0.50	0 -3
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0 -28
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0 +2
12604	M Taylor	Southampton	1.00	0 +7
12701	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0 -6
11803	T Coton	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50	0 -11
12801	E Baardsen	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50	0 -2
12801	L Mikkoski	West Ham United	2.00	0 -20
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0 +2
13002	P Heald	Wimbledon	1.00	0 -4



Eddie Newton celebrates scoring for Chelsea, against Middlesbrough, in the FA Cup final but who will be winning in ITF?

Code	Name	Team	Em.	Pts Wt/Ov
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00	0 +32
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +3
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	2.50	0 +3
30404	N Marler	Blackburn Rovers	0.50	0 -3
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0 +40
30502	M MacKay	Celtic	1.50	0 +44
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0 +22
30504	B O'Neil	Celtic	3.00	0 0
30505	E Antoni	Celtic	3.00	0 +4
30601	M Duberry	Chelsea	2.50	0 +4
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0 +36
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0 +4 +4
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0 +3
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0 +5
30606	E Johnsen	Chelsea	1.50	0 +18
30701	L Daley	Coventry City	2.00	0 +10
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0 +2
30704	G Breen	Coventry City	1.50	0 +1
30705	A Evtushok	Derby County	2.50	0 -10
30801	I Sticic	Derby County	1.00	0 0
30802	D Wassell	Derby County	1.00	0 0
30803	P McGrath	Derby County	2.50	0 -4
30804	J Laurenson	Derby County	1.00	0 +10
30805	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0 -5
30806	S Preesley	Dundee United	1.00	0 +2
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0 -19
31002	I Don Bieman	Everton	2.50	0 +12
31003	D Unsworth	Everton	1.00	0 +34
31004	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0 +11
31005	C Shott	Everton	2.00	0 +6
31006	D McPherson	Hearts	1.00	0 +30
31007	P Ritchie	Hearts	1.00	0 +34
31008	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0 -31
31009	B Welsh	Hibernian	0.75	0 +8
31010	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.50	0 -3
31011	S Dennis	Hibernian	1.00	0 -19
31012	M Reilly	Kilmarnock	1.00	0 +17
31013	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0 -25
31014	D Weatherill	Leeds United	2.50	0 +22
31015	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0 +10
31016	L Redipe	Leeds United	1.00	0 +29
31017	J Pemberton	Leeds United	0.50	0 0
31018	R Molenaar	Leeds United	2.00	0 +28
31019	S Dennis	Leeds United	1.00	0 +12
31020	J Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0 +17
31021	B T Kvarne	Leicester City	1.00	0 +8
31022	P Kamark	Leicester City	0.50	0 +6
31023	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0 0
31024	D May	Leicester City	1.50	0 +10
31025	M Elliott	Leicester City	1.00	0 +24
31026	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0 +26
31027	M Malpas	Newcastle United	1.00	0 +55
31028	M Perry	Newcastle United	0.50	0 +43
31029	C Duffy	Newcastle United	0.50	0 +5
31030	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5
31031	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0 -7
31032	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +14
31033	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0 -3
31034	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0 +15
31035	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25
31036	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0 +24
31037	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7
31038	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12
31039	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0 +1
31040	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0 +51
31041	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0 +20
31042	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4
31043	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0 +55
31044	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0 +43
31045	C Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 +5
31046	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5
31047	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0 -7
31048	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +14
31049	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0 -3
31050	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0 +15
31051	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25
31052	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0 +24
31053	W Miller	Hibernian	1.00	0 +7
31054	A Dow	Hibernian	1.00	0 +12
31055	G MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50	0 +1
31056	G Kelly	Leeds United	3.00	0 +51
31057	A Dorigo	Leeds United	2.50	0 +20
31058	D Yates	Derby County	1.00	0 +4
31059	M Malpas	Dundee United	1.00	0 +55
31060	M Perry	Dundee United	0.50	0 +43
31061	C Duffy	Dundee United	0.50	0 +5
31062	C Miller	Dunfermline	0.25	0 -5
31063	M Hottiger	Everton	2.50	0 -7
31064	A Hinchcliffe	Everton	2.00	0 +14
31065	T Phelan	Everton	2.00	0 -3
31066	E Barrett	Everton	1.50	0 +15
31067	G Locke	Hearts	2.00	0 +25
31068	N Pointon	Hearts	1.00	0 +2

Kilmarnock last stop on the trail of £50,000 ITF game



IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Interactive

AS THE domestic seasons stagger to their conclusion, two more prizes will be decided, barring a replay, on Saturday: the Tennents Scottish Cup final and the Interactive Team Football game.

The cup final, at Ibrox, is between Kilmarnock and Falkirk, but, as Falkirk are in the first division of the Bell's Scottish League, their players are ineligible for ITF, so our managers who are looking to make late transfers will only be interested in those from Kilmarnock.

The race for the £50,000 prize for the overall winner of ITF could not be closer, with Turners Earmers 5 and Sophie And Sam leading the table with 822 points each, followed by Edmo Utd with 805.

While those managers will be looking north of the border for help, Mr K. Charlton, of Faversham, Kent, can thank four English-based Europeans for winning him the weekly prize. The FA Cup Final may, to the neutrals, have resembled a game of spot the Englishmen, but the performances of Frode Grodias, of Norway, and Dan Petrescu, of Romania, for Chelsea, and Juninho, of Brazil, and Mikkel Beck, of Denmark, for Middlesbrough, earned Revelation 19 £50.

Mr Charlton's team is:

Goalkeeper
F Grodias (Chelsea)

Full backs
D Petrescu (Chelsea)
D Robertson (Rangers)

Central defenders
R Mongomery (Kilmarnock)
M Reilly (Kilmarnock)

Midfield players
P di Canio (Celtic)
N Ardley (Wimbledon)
M Pembridge (Sheff Wed)
Juninho (Middlesbrough)



Grodias holds aloft the FA Cup on Saturday. His clean sheet for Chelsea was also a winner for Revelation 19



Strikers
D Jackson (Hibernian)
M Beck (Middlesbrough)

Manager
A Wenger (Arsenal)

You can still use the ITF transfer system, even though the regular transfer system has ended for the season, which allows you to change up

to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division. Transfers made before August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

All Interactive Team Football transfer queries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

THIS WEEK
There are no transfers or loaned players in Interactive Team Football this week

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS IN ITF

All 1996/7 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup and Bell's Scottish League premier divisions, the Tennents Scottish Cup Final and August 17 count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED		
Goalkeeper	Keeps clean sheet*	4pts
	Scores goal	3pts
	Saves penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Keeps clean sheet*	3pts
	Scores goal	3pts
	Midfield player	1pt
	Keeps clean sheet*	1pt
	Scores goal	2pts

POINTS DEDUCTED		
Goalkeeper	Concedes goal	2pts
	Concedes penalty	1pt
Full back/Central defender	Misses penalty	1pt
	Scores own goal	1pt
All players	Manager	3pts
	Team wins	3pts
	Team draws	1pt
	Team loses	1pt

* must have played for 75 minutes in the match
† must have played for 45 minutes in the match

Call the ITF checklist on 0891 864 643
Outside UK: 44 990 100 343

Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Calls cost 50p per minute.

(Player's name) Pts

(Team) (Player's name) Pts

SAILING

Frenchman leaves rest of the world behind

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the toughest records in sailing was comprehensively beaten yesterday when Olivier de Kersusson, of France, set a new time for the fastest non-stop circumnavigation of the globe to capture the Jules Verne Trophy.

De Kersusson's huge trimaran, *Sport-Elec*, crossed the finishing line between Ushant and the Lizard Point, off Cornwall, just before 8am yesterday, stopping the clock on the 25,000-mile voyage at 71 days 13hr 18min 8sec.

The new time cuts more than 50 hours off the previous record, set by a crew of eight, led by Sir Peter Blake and Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, on the catamaran, *ENZA New Zealand*, in 1994. While it had been expected for weeks that

by a few minutes or hours, but by three days — that's tremendous. It'll be hard for anyone of this generation to beat this record, though I believe it can be done in 60 days," he said.

For the man from Brittany, who underwent a triple heart bypass operation two years ago, the quest for the Jules Verne prize has been an obsession that has lasted the best part of four years, embracing six separate attempts. On his first, in January 1993, he hit a lump of ice off Cape Town and retired. The next year, he sailed all the way, trailing *ENZA* but finishing three days behind the triumphant British and New Zealand crew.

Since then, there have been three other attempts, all of which were abandoned when

he was slipping too far behind *ENZA*'s time or because weather patterns suggested a record was unlikely. On this latest attempt, which started on March 8, de Kersusson calculated he was slipping too far behind *ENZA*'s time or because weather patterns suggested a record was unlikely. On this latest attempt, which started on March 8, de Kersusson

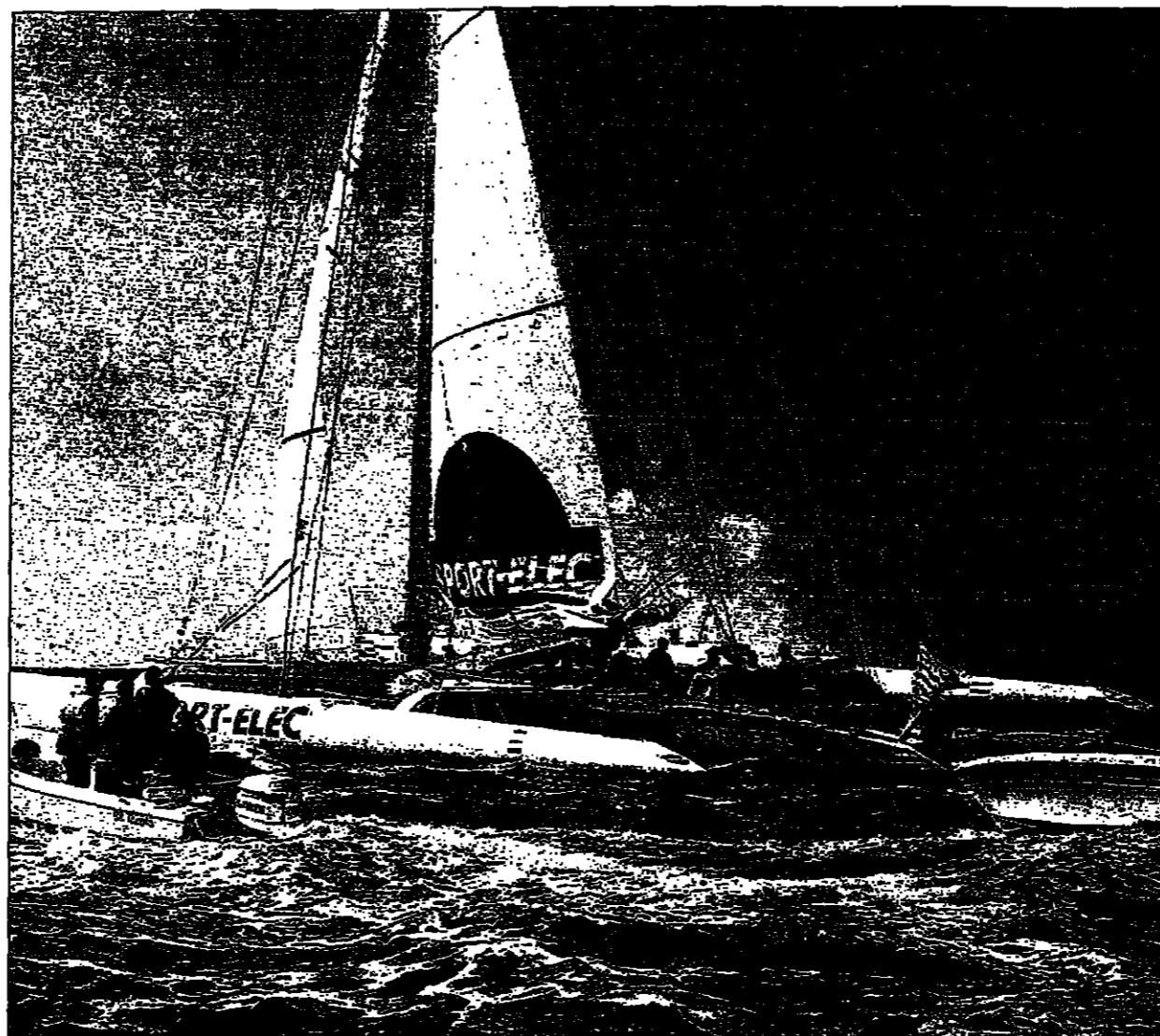
sailed a much shorter course than *ENZA*, shaving as much as 1,500 miles off the total distance. His average speed was slower than the 14.68 knots achieved by *ENZA*.

De Kersusson had a crew of nine on board *Sport-Elec*, a 90ft trimaran that had a new mast installed for the voyage and was lightened by around 400 kilos to make her faster.

In breaking the record, de Kersusson has thrown down the gauntlet to Tracy Edwards, of Great Britain, who sets off on her own record attempt next January in the old *ENZA*, now renamed *Royal Sun Alliance*. Edwards said last week that she hoped de Kersusson would not take more than a day off the old time. She said that much more would make breaking it again extremely difficult.

However, *Royal Sun Alliance* has had up to half a ton of weight taken out, has lighter deck gear and a new set of sails that are more advanced both in design and material. Ed Danby, Edwards' project manager, who was part of Knox-Johnston's crew, believes the boat is sailing faster than ever before.

Among the thousands of well-wishers and supporters who gathered on the quayside at Brest to welcome the crew in was Blake himself, who paid tribute to the 52-year-old French skipper. "I wouldn't have missed this for anything. I owed it to myself to be here," he said. "Olivier deserved this trophy because he has shown so much perseverance. He hasn't just beaten this record

De Kersusson's trimaran, *Sport-Elec*, completes its record-breaking circumnavigation yesterday

GOLF: MASTERS CHAMPION SETS HIS SIGHTS ON SECOND MAJOR SUCCESS

Woods takes root in glory

By JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

Woods: passion

THE Tiger Woods bandwagon rolls on, setting new records, raising the standard of golf and bringing thousands of extra spectators to the course every time he plays. Woods had taken a month off after his 12-stroke victory in the Masters, but it made no difference. In the Byron Nelson Classic on Sunday, he came on where he had left off at Augusta — winning, this time by two strokes. It was his fifth victory in the 16 events in which he has competed as a professional.

Woods, who was 21 on December 30, has accumulated £1.34 million from the 16 events in which he has played, which is more money made more quickly than anyone in the history of the game. He is also the youngest man since Horton Smith, in the 1920s, to acquire five victories. Woods's five in 16 is unmatched, however. Smith won only two of his first 16 events.

"Tiger is amazing," Colin Montgomerie said yesterday. "I watched it [the Byron Nel-

son] on television and, when I turned it on, Larry Rinker was one up, but you always had the feeling that he was going to lose. The putting, the passion of the guy [Woods] — he is not No 1, but we all acknowledge he is the best player in the world. We have got to improve beyond what we thought."

In three weeks' time, Woods will bid for victory in the second major championship of the year, the US Open. His performance will be an indication of his ability, because he will face a course with narrow fairways and thick rough,

sonj on television and, when I turned it on, Larry Rinker was one up, but you always had the feeling that he was going to lose. The putting, the passion of the guy [Woods] — he is not No 1, but we all acknowledge he is the best player in the world. We have got to improve beyond what we thought."

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Stupples and Ratcliffe lead the chase

THE English women's amateur championship, which starts at Saunton today with the first of two qualifying rounds, is officially a closed event, but, in reality, is the most open for years (Patricia Davies writes).

Jeanne Hockley, the champion, has turned professional, as has Lisa Educate, the runner-up, Jill Hall, who won in 1994 and 1995, has retired, and there is no former champion in the draw, although Emma Duggie-by won the British title at Newport in 1994.

Karen Stupples, from Royal Cinque Ports, and Elaine Ratcliffe, from Sandalway, were members of the Great Britain and Ireland side that won the Curtis Cup at Killarney last summer and that experience sets them apart from all but Carole Caldwell, who played in the 1978 and 1980 Curtis Cups.

Kim Rostrom, from Clitheroe, has more recent form, having won the Helen Holm Trophy at Royal Troon a few weeks ago.

THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 20 1997

RUGBY LEAGUE

Goodway back on Britain's shortlist

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BY TAKING up the coaching post at Paris Saint-Germain until the end of the season, Andy Goodway has re-entered the frame for the Great Britain position. An appointment for the three-match home series against Australia in November is expected by August.

Goodway's immediate priority is to lift a Paris side beset by injury and poor form away from relegation trouble in the Stones Super League. After the visit of London Broncos next Monday, Goodway will have less than two weeks to prepare the team for testing games against Hunter Mariners and Perth in the world club championship.

As someone who has always

wanted to work in Australia, coaching a team of Australians is possibly the next best alternative. However, it could be that Goodway turns to more indigenous talent to help the French club, who now sit below Oldham Bears, his employers until two weeks ago, a place off the foot of the table.

Goodway, 25, the former Wigton and Britain forward, said that Paris had lost several games by narrow margins in the first half of the league campaign, but omitted to mention that one such defeat was at Oldham, just before his dismissal. "I realise I am taking on a club in a lowly position, but I am confident of turning things round," he said.

The departure of John Joyner, from Castleford, quickly followed by that of Goodway, from Oldham, had rendered the shortlist for the Britain job worryingly thin.

Andy Gregory, of Salford Reds, is the early favourite, but Joe Lydon, the new Rugby Football League technical director, wants to see how candidates perform in all the world club championship group matches before making a recommendation.

European clubs got an idea yesterday of the task that awaits them next month in a magnificent final of the first Australasian Super League tri-series. New South Wales beat Queensland 23-22 in Brisbane in rugby league's first use of the "golden points" rule. With the scores tied after 20 minutes of extra time, the winning dropped goal by Noel Goldthorpe ended suddenly in the 104th minute. Brett Mullins scored three of the four New South Wales tries and Steve Renouf got two for Queensland.

HORSES

Handicap lifted as Audis are overtaken

THE weight penalty imposed on the 1996 title-winning Audi A4 quattro, which has struggled in the early rounds of the Auto Trader British touring car championship, was yesterday rescinded in a bid to make the series more competitive (Mark Fogarty writes).

In the wake of runaway wins by Renault and Honda on Sunday at Brands Hatch, where the Audis of Frank Biela, of Germany, and John Bintcliffe, his British teammate, were way off the pace, TOCA, the championship organiser, removed the additional 30-kilogram handicap in time for the next rounds, at Oulton Park next Monday.

"In coming to our decision, we have taken into account the levels of competition and have acted accordingly," Alan Gow, the chief executive of TOCA, said.

The revision means that the four-wheel drive A4s will revert to their original minimum weight limit of 1,040 kilograms. TOCA uses a weight-based handicap system to balance competition between cars with different drive configurations.

Tonkov clear

Cycling: Pavel Tonkov, of Russia, the defending champion, took the overall lead in the Giro d'Italia yesterday with a dominating performance in the third stage, an 18-kilometre individual time-trial from Santarcangelo to San Marino. He was timed at 31min 42sec, 2sec faster than Ovitov Park next Monday.

Thomas beaten

Golf: Linda Evans, 29, from Pennsylvania, caused the biggest surprise on a day of upsets in the Welsh women's amateur championship at Northop Park yesterday when she knocked out Vicki Thomas, the eight-times champion, from Pennard, Swansea, with a 30-foot putt on the final hole of their quarter-final.

Late charge

Gliding: Russell Cheetham won the first day's racing at the British overseas national championships at Le Blanc, France, by starting late and catching up those of the field of 40 who had successfully departed earlier without having had to "reight" after indifferent lifts.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

It is surprising how many different ways there are to handle quite straightforward suit combinations. The one in the hand today required an idea that I cannot recall seeing before. It is a problem from the entertaining quiz set by Andrew Kambites in the English Bridge Union's bi-monthly magazine. Try just looking at the North-South cards.

Dealer East Love all IMPs

♦Q 9 8 4 3
♦A 10 7 6 5 4
♦A 9 8 7 2
♦Q 10 9 3
♦K 7
♦J 10 6 5
♦A 8 2
♦K 10
♦A 6 4 2

Contract: Three No-trumps by South Lead: Four of diamonds

With East-West playing a weak no-trump, East opens One Diamond and, with no further East-West bidding, North-South arrive in Three No-trumps. How should South play on a diamond lead?

The problem is to develop an extra trick in diamonds, while also finessing the clubs — declarer needs the club king to be right. If you work it through, you will find that an unusual play is necessary — declarer must insert the jack of diamonds, declarer wins in hand, overtakes the ten of diamonds with the ace and again takes the club finesse. Finally, he sets up his ninth trick by reaching dummy with the third round of clubs and playing the eight of diamonds. Somewhat artificial, I suppose — if West leads either of his majors, South has to go off.

□ The Crookfords Cup, the English team of four championship, was won at the weekend by Tom Townsend, Phil King, David Mossop, David Price and Les Steel.

□ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

BANAGHER
a. A pancake
b. Absurd
c. A Hindu caste

THAMMUZ
a. A three-stringed zither
b. A judge
c. A god

Answers on page 54

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN SUCCESS

The undisputed star of the gold medal-winning England team in the European championship at Pula, in Croatia, was Matthew Sadler, the former British champion. Although all the other team members — Short, Adams, Speelman and Hodgson — made praiseworthy "plus one" scores, Sadler scored an amazing plus five performance leading to a tally of 17.

In this game, taken from England's match against Estonia, Sadler shows how it is possible to win against the solid 3½ variation of the Sicilian Defence. White overambitiously sacrifices a pawn, but Black carefully nuzzles his advantage and wins in the endgame. It is noteworthy that Sadler finds no difficulty playing with the black pieces — he also notched up an immense positive score with Black for England in the Olympiad last year.

White: Rytkarov
Black: Sadler
European championship
Pula, May 1997
Sicilian Defence
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5
4 c3 Nf6 5 Nc3 Bc5 6 d4
Nxd4 7 Nxd4 Bb6 8 Bxc6
dxc6 9 Nc3 Bxc3 10 b3
Bxb3 11 axb3 Nc6 12 Nc3
Bd7 13 Nf3 Bxf3 14 gxf3
Nxe4 15 Nxe4 Nc6 16 Nc3
Bd7 17 Nf3 Nc6 18 Nc3
Bd7 19 Nf3 Nc6 20 Nc3
Bd7 21 Nf3 Nc6 22 Nc3
Bd7 23 Nf3 Nc6 24 Nc3
Bd7 25 Nf3 Nc6 26 Nc3
Bd7 27 Nf3 Nc6 28 Nc3
Bd7 29 Nf3 Nc6 30 Nc3
Bd7 31 Nf3 Nc6 32 Nc3
Bd7 33 Nf3 Nc6 34 Nc3
Bd7 35 Nf3 Nc6 36 Nc3
Bd7 37 Nf3 Nc6 38 Nc3
Bd7 39 Nf3 Nc6 40 Nc3
Bd7 41 Nf3 Nc6 42 Nc3
Bd7 43 Nf3 Nc6 44 Nc3
Bd7 45 Nf3 Nc6 46 Nc3
Bd7 47 Nf3 Nc6 48 Nc3
Bd7 49 Nf3 Nc6 50 Nc3
Bd7 51 Nf3 Nc6 52 Nc3
Bd7 53 Nf3 Nc6 54 Nc3
Bd7 55 Nf3 Nc6 56 Nc3
Bd7 57 Nf3 Nc6 58 Nc3
Bd7 59 Nf3 Nc6 60 Nc3
Bd7 61 Nf3 Nc6 62 Nc3
Bd7 63 Nf3 Nc6 64 Nc3
Bd7 65 Nf3 Nc6 66 Nc3
Bd7 67 Nf3 Nc6 68 Nc3
Bd7 69 Nf3 Nc6 70 Nc3
Bd7 71 Nf3 Nc6 72 Nc3
Bd7 73 Nf3 Nc6 74 Nc3
Bd7 75 Nf3 Nc6 76 Nc3
Bd7 77 Nf3 Nc6 78 Nc3
Bd7 79 Nf3 Nc6 80 Nc3
Bd7 81 Nf3 Nc6 82 Nc3
Bd7 83 Nf3 Nc6 84 Nc3
Bd7 85 Nf3 Nc6 86 Nc3
Bd7 87 Nf3 Nc6 88 Nc3
Bd7 89 Nf3 Nc6 90 Nc3
Bd7 91 Nf3 Nc6 92 Nc3
Bd7 93 Nf3 Nc6 94 Nc3
Bd7 95 Nf3 Nc6 96 Nc3
Bd7 97 Nf3 Nc6 98 Nc3
Bd7 99 Nf3 Nc6 100 Nc3
Bd7 101 Nf3 Nc6 102 Nc3
Bd7 103 Nf3 Nc6 104 Nc3
Bd7 105 Nf3 Nc6 106 Nc3
Bd7 107 Nf3 Nc6 108 Nc3
Bd7 109 Nf3 Nc6 110 Nc3
Bd7 111 Nf3 Nc6 112 Nc3
Bd7 113 Nf3 Nc6 114 Nc3
Bd7 115 Nf3 Nc6 116 Nc3
Bd7 117 Nf3 Nc6 118 Nc3
Bd7 119 Nf3 Nc6 120 Nc3
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Australian batsman discarded for recklessness opens up to Alan Lee

Slater retains faith in cavalier style

Just occasionally, a cricketer comes along who transcends partisanship and generates broad, affectionate appreciation. Such a player is Michael Slater, now embarking on his second England tour with a career to rebuild but a reputation as an entertainer that, in England at least, remains untouched by his soul-searching of the past six months.

Slater is the most dazzlingly instinctive opening batsman in the world today and, of consequence, one of the most vulnerable. Spectators love him for his fearlessness as much as his fearlessness; it is that rare being, a cricketer who compels attention through the dread of missing something memorable, magical or howling mad.

He was an almost instant revelation in Test cricket, but in India last autumn instinct was traded for impetuosity once too often for the blood pressure of the Australia selectors. After an especially precipitate dismissal, chasing wildly outside off stump to the second ball of a Test in Delhi, Slater was dropped. He has not played an international game since.

This is likely to change at Headingly on Thursday, when Slater will probably bat in the middle order in the opening Texaco Trophy one-day match. He sees this as a platform, a means to the end that has recently consumed him: the re-establishment of his position at No 1 in the Test match side.

For a long time, it seemed Slater was destined to miss this tour, thus missing the return to where it all began, in particular a nostalgic return to Lord's, where he made a century in only his second Test match and celebrated it, engagingly, by kissing the Australian badge on his green helmet.



Slater at Arundel, where he reintroduced himself to English spectators with an unbeaten half-century

Slater, now 27, says he was "thrilled but not surprised" to be chosen. "It had all turned full circle in the three weeks before selection," he explains. "The form of certain players in South Africa had gone my way, as did the fact that this tour followed so quickly. From the moment I was left out, my goal and focus was to get back in time for England, so I just crossed my fingers and hoped."

The wounds of rejection have not entirely healed, but now, with the safety of distance and the security of a second chance, is Slater willing to talk openly about his feelings. At the time, he turned inwards: he abandoned his customarily lucid and approachable personality in favour of silent mourning.

If this sounds excessive,

consider the man and his achievements. In 34 Tests, he had made 2,655 runs at an average of 47.41, at least five runs per innings higher than any of the present England team. Moreover, he had made them with the irrepressible spirit that he was now being asked to curb.

He was confused. Also, because the modern international cricketer earns good money and he had just pledged himself and his wife, Stephanie, to a spanking new home in Sydney's dockside, he was entitled to be a little afraid.

"I was in shock, really," he recalls. "It hit me very hard because I didn't see it coming. I had always regarded myself as a consistent Test player and, although no one can ever take such a thing for granted, I had not expected it to be taken away. I did get very low, depressed if you like. I'm only human and I found it hard to handle. At times, especially in the first few weeks afterwards, it seemed that nothing would go right. A long season stretched ahead and I didn't know what else."

The inevitable self-analysis was complicated by the difficulty of reconciling a need to readjust with a desire to retain his identity. "I had to reassess my style, but I came to the

conclusion that turning my natural, aggressive game into that of a run accumulator just wouldn't work.

"I received an awful lot of advice and it came down to me to sift through it and decide what was best. If I was getting out playing loose shots, that was something that had to be addressed, but even now I have not made fundamental changes to my technique. I will still get out to poor shots in the future, it's part of the game. I just intend to do it less often."

Slater's banishment polarised Australians. There were those who thought he had it coming to him, like a naughty schoolboy. There were others, like the former captain, Ian Chappell, who took an entirely different view. "The desire to punish Slater showed a lack of understanding in the need to maintain the right balance in the Test side," Chappell said. "Having undermined Slater's confidence in his natural game, he is now in such a mess he will require careful rehabilitation. He may never be the same player again."

Slater is aware of the concern, but intent on ignoring it.

"I believe that saga has made me a better person," he said.

"The need to rethink my goals and my methods will have done me no harm in the long run."

He has been in England only a week, but already he feels at home and in good form. "The desire to promote the people here has been touching, really warm. A lot of them have come up and said they love the way I play. They seem to worry I'm going to change everything, but I can assure them I'm not. I am a passionate person and that is how I will always bat. It wouldn't be me otherwise."

Sport faces rapid change under New Labour. Yesterday, Frank Dobson, the Secretary of State for Health, warned that tobacco sponsorship, as well as advertising, will be outlawed under his administration. Thus 60 sports that have inhaled tobacco money to the tune of £8 million a year over three decades will have to find new ways to finance themselves.

Today, Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, holds counsel with the Sports Council and is expected to reduce the £300 million that sport receives annually from the National Lottery by up to one third. The worst fears are that this drastic cut, in order to finance Labour promises on health and education, will jeopardise John Major's £100 million National Academy of Sport and possibly defer the rebuilding of Wembley Stadium into a crown jewel to be used in enticing the World Cup and the Olympic Games to London.

Let us be honest. If sport has grown so dependent on tobacco sponsorship — the antithesis of promoting health and fitness — that it cannot live within its means, then it simply must be scaled back. If this puts Britain at a disadvantage to other countries that do not care where the funding comes from, then perhaps Britain should take the healthy lead. It would, after all, help to excuse Great Britain's failure to finish any higher than 36th at the last Olympics ... a failure that, incidentally, Labour pledged to reverse in the chase for popular votes. Jack Cunningham, then the Shadow Heritage Secretary, boasted that Labour would put Britain back into the Olympic top ten. He did not say how, he did not cost his promise and now, in the agriculture ministry, he is able to bury the hollow words.

But to be fair, which of us,

money and tobacco co.

it begins to sound as hollow as a smoke ring,

because in 1965 the Government

banned advertising of tobacco on television. Shortly after that, Lord

Denis Howell, who, as

Howell called tobacco money the "lifeblood" of sport.

From then until today, sport built dependency on the tobacco handout. It is ironic that the Sports Council journeys to the National Heritage Ministry today in fear of losing even more income, when, in 1978, that council rejected a resolution urging it to "neither negotiate nor associate with tobacco sponsorship". John Disley, then its vice-chairman, lamented "that some of our sports bodies should associate with tobacco. I find like putting King Herod in charge of child welfare". Almost 20 years on, the debate goes around and around. It is a treadmill, this conflict of sport tainted by nicotine, and Labour has yet to deliver on its promise and its threat.

Which of us can argue the priority of sport over health?

Politicians, promises, money and tobacco co. It begins to sound as hollow as a smoke ring, because in 1965 the Government banned advertising of tobacco on television. Shortly after that, Lord Denis Howell, who, as

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was to become the Labour

Minister for Sport, formed a company with the agent,

Bagenall Harvey, setting up

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Sponsorship ban, page 1

Hat-trick specialist awaits date with destiny

Michael Henderson meets an England prospect with Test cricket in his blood

with Middlesex, he found himself — and has really found himself — at Kent. As a late replacement for Peter Martin on the A tour of Pakistan two winters ago, he made a sharp impression and, last year, he took three hat-tricks in championship cricket, which takes some doing. Nobody has ever taken more.

He won a place in England's one-day team against Pakistan at the end of last year, but when the winter parties were announced, he went off again with the A team to Australia, where he took three hat-tricks in championship cricket, which takes some doing. Nobody has ever taken more.

He could say, therefore, that Dean, now 27, absorbed cricket as freely and naturally as oxygen, although he did not tear up many pear trees at Worcester and, after two years

and developed. People want to know whether you can bowl a good outswinger, an inswinger, a yorker. It would be nice to have four variations on a slower ball. If you have two, you may find three. Four, who

knows? Nobody can do the same thing all the time unless they are absolutely world class."

He agrees he is self-critical, which is a mark of honesty, and is as difficult to award himself decent marks as to do himself down. "There are times when you take nought and for you may have bowled well. At other times, you may have taken four or five wickets without having bowled well at all. Being critical goes both ways."

As one might expect from a supporter of West Bromwich Albion, he is an optimist. "I would like to think I will play Test cricket. It's hard to decipher what the challenge is before you get there, but I don't think playing county cricket gets you through playing Test cricket. You can average 40 or 50 in county cricket, but that alone doesn't mean you will make that step

up. You must have something extra. For bowler, it may be getting 20 runs with the bat, or saving ten in the field."

He enjoyed Australia, he said, because the pitches, though not always fast, were true. "I prefer to play my first few games each year on shirtpin pitches, where the ball goes through a bit, because it grooves a bit. It is good to bowl properly."

He also enjoyed the contest with Australian cricketers, though he does not see them as a tribe of supermen. To earn the right to play against them this summer, he will simply carry on as before.

A bright chap, is Headley. He speaks well, has a high regard for his peers and, like many young English players, wants to show that domestic cricket is not so sclerotic as it is sometimes portrayed. He should not have to wait long for his chance. Wish him well.

TENNIS

Instonians on target in shoot-out

INSTONIANS, from Belfast, won the B division of the European club championship in Cagliari, Italy, yesterday, twice coming from behind against Amsicora, the home side, in the final to force a penalty shoot-out, which they won 4-3.

In a display of immense fortitude, Mark Irwin and Mervyn Cooke levelled the scores from penalty corners during normal time after Alessio Raggio had twice converted penalty strokes. Cooke and his brothers, Paul and Neil, were also on target in the shoot-out, along with Paul Holloway, the captain.

Cannock of England, also had to come from behind to their bronze medal play-off against White Star, of Belgium. A goal down in the first minute, they responded with two goals from Bob Crutchley and one each from Chris Mayer and Paul Edwards to earn a 4-2 win.

Swansea registered their first victory of the tournament in their final game. They beat Grange, from Scotland, 1-0 with a 31st-minute strike by Carlo Lucignoli that ensured that Whitchurch, their successors as Welsh champions, will remain in the B division.

Hightown duplicated Cannock's success in the A division of the women's championships at The Hague, Holland, beating Glasgow Western 5-3 in an uncompromising contest to secure third place.

Berliner won the title for the first time when they came from a goal behind to beat HGC, the home team, 2-1 in the final.

BADMINTON

New series designed to raise profile

THE All-England championships are likely to become part of a new, higher-status series of tournaments in the world grand prix circuit named the "seven spectacles" (Richard Eaton writes). The series is designed to increase worldwide television coverage and give badminton a new image and direction.

It should include four big prize-money tournaments in Asia, two in Europe and one in the United States.

The Atlanta Olympics did not move the sport forward a lot.

David Shaw, the executive director of the International Badminton Federation (IBF), said on the opening day of the world championships in Glasgow yesterday, "but there is a huge potential market in the United States, with a lot of people playing socially."

The All-England, with \$125,000 prize money, arguably retains its status as the most prestigious open tournament, though whether or not it becomes part of the new series will depend upon the IBF and the Badminton Association of England reaching agreement with the Asian-based Star television company — something that has not happened in the recent past.

The series should begin in 1999. Leading into it next year will be two smaller, stop window events, possibly comprising the top four men's singles players and the top four men's doubles pairings, in Sydney and either Rome or London. If this attracts worldwide television coverage, it will mean that the World Cup this year will be the last.

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the appropriate payment will have to be made.

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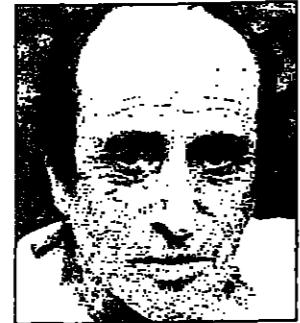
THE TIMES

TOKEN 8

CHANGING TIMES

Tribute fit for a king pales beside greatest feats of Clay

A new film purports to show Muhammad Ali at the peak of his boxing career, but Brian Glanville recalls a golden age



The film documentary *When We Were Kings*, in its sometimes enthralling, sometimes anti-cinematic style, of Muhammad Ali's "Rumble in the Jungle" in Kinshasa in 1974, his extraordinary victory over George Foreman. Enthralling, for its filming of the event itself; engaging, in its portrait of Ali; anti-cinematic in its plethora of talking heads.

The one that talks most is Norman Mailer's, by turns analyst and groupie. Mailer wrote a strange book about the contest, in which he described how, in an odd magical ritual, he walked around the balcony of his hotel room, propitiating fate on Ali's behalf.

At the end of the film, sheer embarrassment as Mailer tells a tale of how the ageing Ali complimented him on looking so young at 62, moving Mailer to go off like a dog — a fawning dog? — to urinate. At which Ali asks Mailer's far younger wife why she is still "with that old man".

The film shows Ali as an astonishing boxer, a supremely handsome human being, an infinitely charming and loquacious egotist, but claims by one of the talking heads that Ali might be a "great political leader" are simply absurd.

As one who covered several of Ali's earlier fights, notably his sensational victory in Miami Beach over Sonny Liston in 1964, I found that the film omitted a completed dimension. Where it tries to show Ali as hero, it is surely more appropriate to see him as victim.

Another talking head tells

us that, for all his present slurring and shambling, the cruel product of his Parkinson's Syndrome, Ali is now a happy man. But who can be happy when, remembering him in all his physical glory, he sees the Ali of today, a brutal parody of what he was? And, seeing him, reflects how it must have happened, the fights too far, the punches to the head sustained despite his marvellous evasive skills.

For me, the watershed, the ugly moment of truth, came in 1966 in the dressing room of the White City gym before Ali's second meeting with Henry Cooper. He was on the massage table, for once calm and serene. Indeed, he had been sending up his own, flamboyant style of earlier days.

"Let's go back to the past: for just five minutes! If he give me five, he'll fall in five! Let me go, Angelo; I want him now!"

Recumbent, Ali said, "Presidents of the USA, they have their advisers. There's my brains, right there."

At which I expected him to indicate Angelo Dundee, who had trained and nurtured him so assiduously, but he did not. "Herbert Muhammad" Ali cried, and pointed to a short, plump, black man who stood smiling in a corner. Herbert Muhammad, the son of Elijah Muhammad, founder and baleful leader of the Black Muslims.

It was the Black Muslims, by then, who controlled Ali, who had persuaded him to change his name from Cassius Clay, to leave the group of rich businessmen from Louisville, Kentucky, who had skilfully

guided his career up to the time that he took the title from Liston.

By an irony, however, it was supposed, at the time of Ali's conversion, that it had been engineered not by Elijah Muhammad but by Malcolm X, the rival whom the Black Muslims would eventually shoot down.

Had the Louisville consortium continued to look after Clay, as he then was, would he have kept much more of his money? Would he have been forced to keep on fighting for so long?

He had 22 fights after taking the title back from Foreman. A talking head assures us that Ali just loved fighting. Did he?

The day after beating Liston, Clay told us that he did not like hurting people, he did not like fighting — and neither had his hero, Sugar Ray Robinson.

As for his subsequent status,

under the Black Muslims, an icon and a role model for young blacks, he did not become that already, by virtue of defeating Liston? A well-known liberal American journalist remarked to me the day after that Liston was, "the kind of coloured man who keeps other coloured men in line. I'm glad to see him get it".

A few days later, I flew to New York to work on a boxing documentary for the BBC. Clay turned up at their Fifth Avenue headquarters to record an interview with Harry Carpenter, in London.

He arrived with an entourage — indeed, an entourage would surround him, flattering and exploiting, for the rest of his boxing career. Sam Cooke, the singer who would eventually be shot dead, was one of the noisy group. Clay was noisier than all. He would not say a word until he had the cheque and halfway through the interview he stopped, to demand more money. Only his devoted camp follower, Bundini Brown, was missing — Brown, who pops up early in *When We Were Kings*, described as assistant trainer, solemnly predicting the fight. Brown, who claimed author-

ship of his and Clay's famous chant, "Float like a butterfly, sting like a bee! Yeah! Rumble, young man, rumble!" Bundini Brown, who in that dingy Miami Beach gym, where the Beatles turned up to be photographed with Clay, complained, "I'm giving everything and getting nothing!"

I'm so great," Clay would cry, "that the Beatles came to get my autograph!" Soon after the rumpus at the BBC, I went to Harlem to interview Malcolm X at the Hotel Teresa, where Joe Louis used to stay in his time as world champion. Clay was on the steps, haranguing a small crowd. Upstairs, in the hotel, was Malcolm X, lean, expectant, courteous and intense.

His analysis was persuasive. His solution was all cloud cuckoo land. Blacks constituted ten per cent of the American people. They should therefore be granted a separate state, with ten per cent of the territory.

When Ali talks, on this documentary, one hears the voice of the Black Muslims. Whatever the atrocious suffering of American blacks across the generations, Africa is sure-



Ali in *When We Were Kings*, an astonishing boxer and loquacious egotist

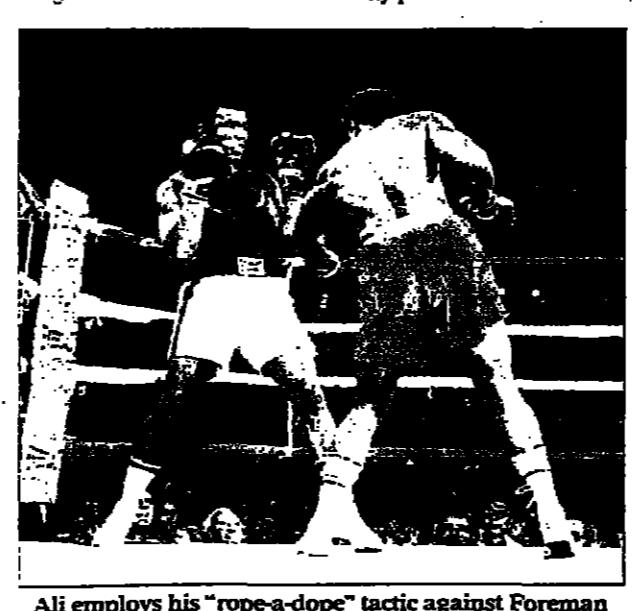
ly no panacea. Ali insists that America's blacks have been brainwashed with white attitudes and must therefore be "unbrainwashed".

If anybody was brainwashed, it appears to have been Ali himself. He showed courage, and was vindictively punished, for standing up against the Vietnam War, but at whose instigation was he standing? I much preferred the unreconstructed Clay, for all his exhibitionism.

In Miami Beach, Liston, before the fight, was the funnier man and, at the weigh-in, Clay appeared to go berserk, yelling and ranting at a passive Liston. "You a chump! You a chump!" Jim Manning, of the *Daily Mail*, wrote that Clay was too sick to fight, but it was just one more manoeuvre.

In the event, Clay boxed beautifully, slipped punch after punch, until Liston, his shoulder strained, quit on his stool. In Kinshasa, Ali, who had been promising to "dance", played "rope-a-dope" instead, until Foreman had punched himself out and could be punched in his turn.

But in the last analysis, the exploited Ali just took too many punches.



Ali employs his "rope-a-dope" tactic against Foreman

Oliver must overcome inexperience

If Spencer Oliver becomes the European super-bantamweight champion tonight, he will be only beginning to fulfil the expectations of his manager, Jess Harding (Srikumar Sen writes). According to Harding: "This kid is so special, he will go all the way and become world champion."

Before that, however, the 22-year-old Londoner must overcome the formidable presence of the European title-holder, Marin Krastev, of Bulgaria, at Picketts Lock, Edmonton, north London. While some experts feel that the bout could represent a step up in class too early in Oliver's career — he has had just ten contests, all of which he has won — Harding believes that his man's courage, technique and work-rate will see him through against the tough Krastev, 28, who is the first Bulgarian to hold a

European championship.

BANAGHER
(b) *Striking the fairs* is fixing the prices of the different varieties of grain in the various counties of Scotland. The decision was made by the sheriff on the advice of a jury. The system was originally used for determining crown rents, clerical stipends, etc., and applied to all contracts where the prices were not fixed by the parties concerned.

SCIRON
(c) A robber of Greek legend. He infested the coastal road near Megara, robbing travellers and forced them to jump off the rocks into the sea. There they were devoured by a monster. Theseus killed him.

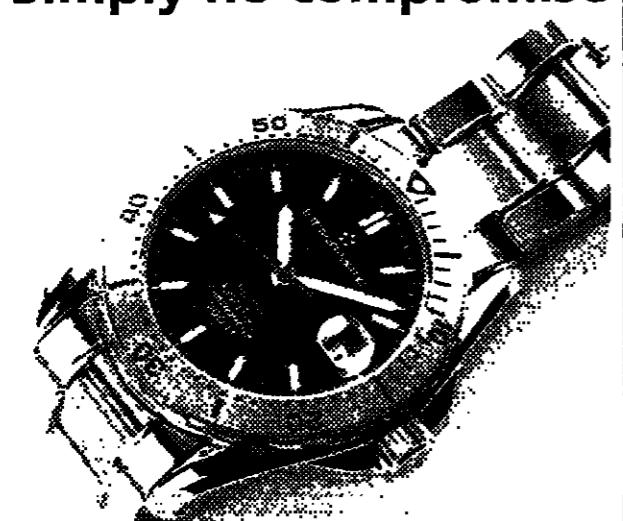
FIARS
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THE TIMES TUESDAY MAY 20 1997

TELEVISION CHOICE

A big bang at Dounreay

Home Ground: A Nuclear Disaster
BBC2, 7.30pm

The season of documentaries from the BBC continues with a disquieting report about a nuclear explosion in Scotland. Although the blast happened 20 years ago, the gist of Louise Tait's very thorough report is that the full implications were largely hidden at the time and are only now being recognised. The blast took place in the main waste shaft at the Dounreay nuclear establishment in Caithness. For nearly two decades the shaft was used to dispose of highly radioactive material, though precautions were not as tight as they should have been. A government advisory body has been critical of the handling of the shaft and there are suggestions that the high incidence of leukaemia cases in the Caithness area may be linked to radioactive discharge.



Dr Silver tests his lens (BBC1, times vary)

Silver's solution, as ingenious as it is cheap, is a variable focus lens. Syringes inject silicon liquid between two pieces of plastic held in place by metal rings. Once the wearer can see clearly, the syringes are removed. Silver takes his invention to Ghana. Satisfied customers include a man who lost his factory job because of worsening eyesight and a fisherman who can barely see to mend his nets. Without commercial backing, however, the project could be stillborn.

Victoria and Albert
ITV, times vary

Albert having died of typhoid at the end of the first programme, this concluding one is mostly about Victoria, but the dead consort continues to throw his shadow. The film shows Victoria's long and reclusive period of mourning, which made her so unpopular with her subjects that some of them campaigned to turn Great Britain into a republic. It took a serious illness to the future King Edward VII, and an attempt on her own life to which the plot back Prince Michael of Kent, with the help of an unseen narrator, Stan Phillips, tells the tale in a solid and unromantic style. The series' Victoria of the school history books, depicted in Disraeli's *Vivian Grey*, dismayed by Gladstone and finding an unlikely companion in the unromantic Highlander, John Brown. Dramatised episodes fill out the narrative until moving film takes over towards the end of the reign. Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

The Network Information as Power
Radio 4, 8.30pm

Too many programmes about information technology take a wide-eyed approach and therefore become advocates rather than critical analysts. This one is a welcome exception, taking in the risks as well as the benefits of empowering people through technology. Part of the focus tonight is on Internet shopping, much vaunted as the means to do everything from reducing the stress of ploughing around supermarkets to reducing traffic jams by enabling us to order from home; but Alan Lewis asks the question that many in the computer business worry about: what guarantees is there that credit card details sent down a telephone line will not be exploited by the unscrupulous? Lewis reports on moves to improve security.

RADIO 1

7.00am Mark Radcliffe 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Kevin Greening 6.15 Newsbeat 6.30 Evening Session 8.30 Digital Update with Rachel Raynor 8.45 John Peel 10.30 Mary Anne Hobbs 1.00pm Claire Suttor 4.00 Clive Clegg 5.00

6.00pm Mark Radcliffe 7.00 Sports 8.30 Sport 9.00 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Through Europe 9.30 Everywoman 10.00 BBC Radio 1 10.15 Countryfile 10.30 Natureline 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.00pm Imperial Orphan 1.00 News 2.00 Michaela Strachan 3.00 Clive Clegg 4.00

5.00pm Mark Radcliffe 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Sports 7.00 Multitrack 8.00 Sport 8.15 Through Europe 8.30 News in German 8.50 Europe Today 9.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 9.45 The Queen's Speech 10.00 BBC Radio 1 10.15 Sport 10.30 Newsbeat 10.45 Sports 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05 Cutback 12.30 Megazine 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 BBC Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Mandate Live 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

WORLD SERVICE

All times in BST. News on the hour. 6.00am Newsbeat 6.30 Europe Today 7.15 The World Today 7.30 Imperial Orphan 8.15 Off the Shelf 8.30 Touched with Fire 8.45 The Good Relationship 9.00 News in German 9.10 Pause for Thought 9.15 Through Europe 9.30 Everywoman 10.00 BBC Radio 1 10.15 Countryfile 10.30 Natureline 10.45 Sport 11.30 On Screen 12.00pm Imperial Orphan 1.00 News 2.00 Michaela Strachan 3.00 Clive Clegg 4.00

5.00pm Mark Radcliffe 6.00 Newsbeat 6.30 Sports 7.00 Multitrack 8.00 Sport 8.15 Through Europe 8.30 News in German 8.50 Europe Today 9.30 World Business Report 5.45 Britain Today 9.45 The Queen's Speech 10.00 BBC Radio 1 10.15 Sport 10.30 Newsbeat 10.45 Sports 11.30 The World Today 11.45 Sport 12.05 Cutback 12.30 Megazine 1.30 The Farming World 1.45 BBC Today 2.30 Discovery 3.30 Mandate Live 4.05 Business Report 4.15 Sport 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Grills 7.00 Miles Reid 8.00 Hall of Fame 10.00 Henry Kelly 1.00pm Concerto Sir Charles Villiers Stanford Clarinet Concerto in A minor Op 11 3.00 Jamie Crichton 7.00 Newlight 7.30 Sonatas Philippe Gaubert (Flute Sonata) 8.00 Mendelssohn (Concerto for 2 pianos in E major); Fanny Mendelssohn (Extracts from The Year) 10.00 Michael Mephisto

VIRGIN RADIO

4.30am Russ 'n' Jono 10.00 Graham Dine 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Horne 6.00 Paul Coates (FM) / Robin Banks 7.00 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00am Randal Lee Ross

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, with Penny Gore. Includes Brahms (Sonatas No 1 in D, Op 11); Vaughan Williams (Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis); Humperdinck (Overture No 2 Die Heiraten Wider Willen); Schubert (En Saga).

9.00am Morning Concert with Catriona Young. Includes Smetana (Myšák), Ma Vlast: Elég (Chanson de Nuit; Chanson de Matin); Britten (Preludes and Dances: The Prince of the Pagodas).

10.00am Musical Encounters, with Nicola Heywood. This week live from the Bruckner Room at the Guildhall, Bath. Includes a performance by Steven Isserlis, cello, and Imogen Cooper, piano.

11.00am Bath International Music Festival Chris de Souza introduces a live broadcast of a concert featuring the Bath Ensemble. Includes Chopin (Polonaise-Fantaisie in F minor, Op 61); Mazurka in C sharp minor, Op 30 No 4; Messiaen (Le Baiser de l'Estrem Jésus).

12.00am Composer of the Week: Handel. Includes the Organ Concerto in D minor; Tomasz Borys, Anthony Goldsworthy, Michael Chance (Overture, Der Varpan); Weber (Konzertstück in F minor, Op 79); Holzman (Symphony in E flat).

1.00am Mezzo, Mezzo Sarah Connolly meets Mutual Knowledge, with Nicky Hynes. Follows the fortunes of a photographer at the time of the Cull India movement.

1.30pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Elgar Howarth. Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Alard (Nimrod); Stravinsky (Suite, The Firebird, 1919 version).

1.45pm Voices, Mezzo Sarah Connolly meets Mutual Knowledge, with Nicky Hynes. Follows the fortunes of a photographer at the time of the Cull India movement.

1.55pm The BBC Orchestra, BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, conductor Elgar Howarth. Debussy (Prélude à l'Après-Midi d'un Faune); Alard (Nimrod); Stravinsky (Suite, The Firebird, 1919 version).

2.00pm Night Watcher, Richard Coles explores the way dogs have been represented by writers. Plus a report from the new Glyndebourne production of Puccini's first international success *Mambo*.

2.30pm Composer of the Week: Lehar (I).

2.30pm Jazz Notes, Blues singer Blue Lu talks to Aly Shilton about working with some of the great jazz musicians.

3.00pm Through the Night, with Donald Macleod</p

From cold collation to flash-fried red herrings

Typical. You wait ages for a decent suspect to turn up — and then half a dozen arrive at once. As Alan Bleasdale's *Melissa* (Channel 4) careers into the final stretch, all those cold leads that Detectives Cameron and Kilshane were struggling to warm up last week have turned red-hot. They warn you against doing this kind of thing when cooking chicken: apparently there is a risk that the rapid temperature change will kill off all the bugs. Slow, thorough cooking is best. Actually, you could skip the same advice label on this five-part homage to Francis Durbridge. After last Wednesday's episode, which ended with the murder of Jennifer Ehle's *Melissa*, even the Venus de Milo possessed enough fingers to point at all the credible suspects. Now, at last, our hingers have something to do apart from twitch above the "off" switch.

Maybe it was *Melissa*'s hubby

Guy Foster, the former war correspondent, but he has so little free time when he isn't wrestling with his novel (writing one, not reading one), he seems far too busy kicking in television screens: it's a hobby that doesn't leave him much time for committing murders as well. Of course, we are all presuming that Guy's flamboyant tubetrashing eventually has some relevance to the drama. It is too bizarre a character trait to throw in just for the hell of it. But exactly how will it fit into the plot? It is hard to tell: for now, it just sits distractingly on top of events like a cheap wig.

Then there is *Melissa*'s psychiatrist chum, who seems to be in her debt — and who is also being blackmailed: you can tell he is agitated about something because his eyeballs dart about uncontrollably, as if there were nothing anchoring them into their sockets. Don Page — a past-it racing driver who has always pined for *Melissa*

— is behaving oddly. He tries to kill himself by speeding his red Jag into a wall: the airbag inflates. It is a great commercial for Jaguar, but does a man who picks such a low-risk method of suicide (he is a professional driver, remember) have enough intelligence to commit a tangle of murders?

Paula, we now know, is *Melissa*'s real mother. "I was 15 when I had her," she wails, in one of those scenes where the characters explain the plot. So was it Paula who pulled the trigger on *Melissa*'s nasty foster parents in Cape Town in episode one? Julie Walters plays the part of Paula so fluently, she could easily be faking innocence as well. She keeps wailing "I killed her", which is neither here nor there in a murder mystery. But take it down: it may be used in evidence later.

Still, thank God that Cameron and Kilshane played neatly by Bill Paterson and Michael Angelis, seem to be making headway at

minds pointing a spare finger at her. The dipso chanteuse? She is mad crazy for Don Page, and his heart has always belonged to *Melissa*, so maybe she did it to get rid of a rival. And why does Guy's old South Africa buddy, George, keep cropping up?

If you have stuck with it so far, then presumably you will be tuning in for tonight's final episode. So will those of us who think that even if *Melissa* is not Bleasdale's best, it has been worth watching. Otherwise it would be like going to watch your team only when it got to the Cup Final.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

last. Thank God also that Bleasdale, who is one of our cleverest television scriptwriters, has at least given the two coppers some witty lines — although this only serves to highlight how hollow much of the dialogue has been. Apart from Foster's enigmatic ravings when he had writer's block ("I can't turn a train into a plane, I see a train ... I haven't seen a plane all day"), the phrase that still jags in your brain is *Melissa*'s admonishment to Guy: "Don't even begin to think you have the right to be anything other than the man I love". Explanations on a postcard, please.

If you have stuck with it so far, then presumably you will be tuning in for tonight's final episode. So will those of us who think that even if *Melissa* is not Bleasdale's best, it has been worth watching. Otherwise it would be like going to watch your team only when it got to the Cup Final.

Not everybody survives very long in a murder mystery, but they mostly survive longer than a mayfly. If you fancy a long life, then my advice is not to get reincarnated as a mayfly.

As George Woodward, a fishing gillie on the River Wye, said in *Tales From The River Bank* (BBC2), when a mayfly hatches into life "he must be thinking, great, I'll have me full 24 hours bonking and then I'm gonna die happy. Imagine how he feels when, just as his sexless, a swallow pied wagtail swoops down and eats him."

You especially do not want to be a mayfly on the first day of the salmon-fishing season in Scotland, when anglers gather to pray for success on the riverbank. They also presumably pray that none of their friends finds out how much they paid for their chance to catch their very own "king of fish".

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (84391)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (97595)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (936952)
- 9.20 Style Challenge (6317469)
- 9.45 Kirby (7682117)
- 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (31048)
- 11.00 News (T) (746662)
- 11.05 The Great Escape (763662)
- 11.35 Real Rooms (729856)
- 12.00 News (T) and weather (803983)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (768333)
- 12.35 The Practice (912939)
- 1.00 News (T) and weather (28246)
- 1.30 Regional News (8645982)
- 1.40 The Weather Show (9962233)
- 1.45 Neighbours (T) (4054681)
- 2.10 Country Walks to Curious Places (10867730)
- 2.20 Racing from Goodwood the 2.40; 3.10 and the 3.40 races (1700662)
- 2.55 News and weather (8424440)
- 3.00 Through the Keyhole (7288)
- 3.30 Pleynards (8913407) 3.50 Plasma (570591) 3.55 Arthur (8916594) 4.20 Jules Jaffy and Howard Hyde (7351198) 4.35 Round the Twist (1025407) 5.00 Newround (T) (4283339) 5.10 Arch-3 (6052863)
- 5.35 Neighbours (T) (729575)
- 6.00 News (T) and weather (827)
- 6.30 Regional News (407)
- 7.00 Holiday: Fasten Your Seatbelt. Monty Don becomes a holiday rep in Crete (T) (2594)
- 7.30 EastEnders (T) (391)
- 8.00 Children's Hospital Eight-year-old Andrew Hamilton has recurrent pneumonia (T) (8914)
- 8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart Gary marvels at the creativity of his two partners. Last in series (T) (7049)
- 9.00 News (T) and weather (3861)
- 9.30 Carrots on Trial: A new six-part series featuring the best of Jasper Carroll (62407) WALES: 9.30 Week in Week Out (62407) 10.00 Carrot on Trial (16730) 10.30 QED (22778) 11.00 Cannes Film Festival with Barry Norman (304828) 11.40 FILM: The Singing Room (5121995) 3.10 News (7824235)
- 10.00 QED: Superspace Dr Josh Silver puts his invention to the test in Ghana (16730)
- 10.30 Cannes Film Festival with Barry Norman. Barry reports from the annual star-studded extravaganza (477943)
- 11.10 The Sing (1973) Once-winner of the Oscar, with Robert Redford and Paul Newman, is back. 1930s con men determined to avenge pettily nobster Robert Shaw out of a fortune as revenge for the murder of a mutual friend. Directed by George Roy Hill (T) (2567593)
- 1.15am The Beditting Room (1989) with Spike Milligan, Ralph Richardson and Rita Tushingham. Surprisingly based on Milligan's play, set in Britain. Devastatingly funny. 1960s. Directed by Richard Lester (582975)
- 2.45 Weather (1717985)

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: San Marcos: a Dominican Priory The Florentine monastery (813207) 6.25 Santa Spirito: A Renaissance Church (8111914) 6.50 Utilitarian: A Lecture by Bernard Williams (6622827)
- 7.15 News (T) (3594117) 7.30 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (T) (8716499) 7.55 Blue Peter (T) (1806827) 8.20 Jungle Book (6853363) 8.35 The Place (51865)
- 10.30 This Morning (8268254)
- 12.20pm Regional News (T) (8039117)
- 12.30 News (T) and weather (9115136)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (9109827) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (70271933) 1.50 Afternoon Live (40528914) 2.20 Vanessa (T) (4016285) 2.50 Afternoon Live (2435865)
- 3.20 News (T) (9619223)
- 3.25 Regional News (6197524)
- 3.30 Wizards (T) (6416161) 3.40 Potamus Park. Last in series (T) (7079488) 3.50 Old Bear Stories (7083801) 3.60 Juniper and Friends (T) (4895223) 4.20 Waynehead (T) (7308748) 2.10 The Flying Vets (9356446) 2.30 The Milk Men (440)
- 3.00 Racing from Goodwood includes the 3.10 and 3.40 races (8709223)
- 3.35 News (T) (2727407)
- 4.00 Racing from Goodwood the 4.10 race (2525456) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (2527643)
- 4.45 Esther: Celebrity siblings swap stories (1152469) 5.30 Today's the Day (558)
- 6.00 Heartbreak High: A new-age teacher arrives (T) (50310)



David Gower talks cricket (5.45pm)

6.45 Gower's Cricket Monthly In the first of a new monthly series David Gower meets the Australian team as they prepare to defend the Ashes. Jonathan Agnew examines the state of English cricket. Plus a look at Irish cricket (789914)

7.30 Home Ground An explosion at Donnreay in 1977 (933)

8.00 Two Fat Ladies Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright cook for a girls' lacrosse team (T) (6556)

8.30 Food and Drink Picnic wines recommended: John Burton-Race cooks a Bedouin feast (T) (5391)

9.00 Murder One A new defence strategy is required (T) (25252)

10.28 Tales from the Net Andy from Somerset and Lisa from Florida met and married via the Internet (677933)

10.30 Newswatch (T) (57231)

11.15 Ruby Among the guests is Helen Lederer (392285)

12.00 The Midnight Hour (24773)

12.30pm Learning Zone: Open University: Strike a Light! (37614) 1.00 Velocity Diagrams (20828) 1.30 Making the Story (14857) 2.00 Nightschool TV: Go for It! (91265) 4.00 BBC Focus: Teaching and Learning with IT (87624) 4.30 Teaching and Learning with IT (89773) 5.00 Inside Europe (86595) 5.30 Film Education (25402)

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RUGBY UNION 49

Lions feel heat
as injury forces
Grayson to sidelines



Wilkinson: refreshing

Edwards denies contract row

Mystery grows over sudden exit of Cantona

By DAVID MADDOCK

PREDICTABLY, the enigma of Eric Cantona hung heavily around Old Trafford yesterday, even in the absence of the departed icon. As supporters laid flowers and scarves at the ground, in a surreal, funeral commemoration of his passing, conspiracy theories abounded about his underlying motives in announcing his retirement.

As Cantona himself might say, the truth has many faces. There were suggestions that all was not as it seemed when Manchester United revealed the news to the world on Sunday. Already, the French media has been gripped by suggestions that their countryman was forced out of England because of a row over a new contract. There were also hints that the retired forward has not, in fact, put away his boots for the final time.

In France, there is indignation about Cantona's departure from Old Trafford. Le

the understudy to Arrigo Sacchi, before they progressed to the top job.

Wilkinson, who has been in situ for more than 100 days and has talked extensively to Hoddle about the move, hinted strongly that the man he had in mind was English. He hoped to move towards recommending him around January next year and expected his choice to be accepted by the FA.

"In principle," Wilkinson said, "it is sensible and right that the new manager should have been working with the international teams and getting to know them. It should be someone who has decided that that is the career path he would like to take."

"I do not think that something as important should be left in the lurch if someone ups and away or if the

FA decides that the time has come for a change. In both those instances, it would be 'Oops, where do we go from here?' under the current system."

The success of the proposal, which, like the rest of Wilkinson's charter, will be subject to approval by the FA Council, would depend on a coach's willingness to forego a tilt at domestic and European honours at club level. Despite the rather faint support of Graham Kelly, the FA chief executive, who would only say that he agreed with the "general thrust" of this particular plan, the feeling is that it represents the way forward.

It was hard, in fact, to disagree with any of the thoughts that the former Leeds United manager put forward, largely as a result of consultations with representatives of every FA Premier League and Football League club. It is the difficulty he may face in implementing them that is their Achilles' heel.

One of his central tenets, for instance, is the laudable desire to limit the number of games for young players to 30 a season. The problem, though, is that as soon as they graduate to a Premier League bloated with cash, they would be expected to play closer to 45 games. About that, there was no mention.

BOXING 54

Tribute fit for a king? Ali debate rumbles on

SPORT

TUESDAY MAY 20 1997

FEATURES 21

Wilkinson plots England success through succession

The FA's new broom makes a case for grooming.
Oliver Holt, football correspondent, sweeps up

professional clubs as part of a academy structure within the club framework." Wilkinson said.

"Coaches abroad rub their hands in glee at the fact that we are not making the most of the potential we have in this country at the moment. They are happy with the fixture overcrowding. They are happy with what we do with our schoolboys. They are happy that they do not get as much coaching as they should do. They are happy that the coaches who work at that level are underqualified. They are happy in the sense that it provides less competition for them."

"What we are talking about here involves a sea-change. I have got fed up with people saying what we cannot do without saying what the problem is. Nothing ever got done about it."



Montgomerie gives a short-iron approach his full attention yesterday

Third positive test likely in United States

By JOHN GOODBODY AND DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS officials in the United States are bracing themselves for a third positive drugs test inside a week. Any new revelations would follow the high levels of male hormones found in samples of Mary Slaney and Sandra Farmer-Patrick, two of the top American competitors of recent years, at the Olympic trials last June.

Officials are refusing to confirm any findings, although sources say unofficially that an unacceptable level of testosterone was also found in a third competitor at the trials in Atlanta.

USA Track and Field (USATF), already reeling from these latest scandals and facing a deficit this year of \$2 million, now has a long battle to restore credibility to the sport.

Farmer-Patrick has been banned. Neither she nor Dan Pfaff, of the University of Texas, who also advises Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100 metres champion from Canada, were yesterday available for comment. There is no suggestion that Bailey has taken any performance-enhancing substances.

Slaney is facing an inquiry into why her testosterone:epitestosterone (T:E) ratio was 10:1. The usual ratio is 1:1 and the doping authorities investigate any cases of 6:1 and above.

Slaney, the double world champion in 1983, is protest-

ing her innocence and has continued to compete, winning a silver medal in the 1997 world indoor championships.

Meanwhile, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) is hoping to introduce a test that can detect whether testosterone has been artificially taken. It is hoped that the procedure will be accepted internationally by the time of the world athletics championships in August, although that looks to be an unrealistic timescale.

Four different groups have been working on this latest test, with much of the most valuable work being done by Dr Cedric Shackleton, a Briton, who is now based in the United States.

Dr David Cowan, the head of Britain's IOC-accredited laboratory at King's College London University, said yesterday that the testosterone that can be bought to inject is of plant origin, particularly soya, that has an enrichment of the isotopes of carbon. "This differs from what is naturally produced within one's own body."

If this test had been accepted internationally, it would have been used to clarify the case of Diane Modahl. The British runner, who had a ratio of 42:1 in a test in Lisbon in 1994, was cleared after successfully arguing that her sample had been degraded after it had been stored in excessively hot conditions.

Torrance and Montgomerie rise to matchplay challenge

By JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

WHAT they say about Scots and money may be pejorative, but in the European qualifying stage of the Andersen Consulting world championship at the Buckinghamshire golf club yesterday, the world's second-richest golf tournament, Colin Montgomerie and Sam Torrance both raised their games significantly. No sooner had Torrance dispatched Ian Woosnam surprisingly easily than Montgomerie had less difficulty than he had anticipated in beating Jose Maria Olazabal.

A matchplay tournament is welcome on the European Tour, as a change from an otherwise endless diet of strokeplay events. Though rain dampened proceedings yesterday, it was no surprise that two of the winners, Torrance and Darren Clarke, both love this form of the game and, in Clarke's case, had spectacular success as it was an amateur. In one year, he won the Spanish amateur championship and three important Irish events.

"I love matchplay golf," Torrance said. "I love to get aggressive, I like going for things and the one-to-one." The way Torrance putted, you could understand all his rivals endorsing the notion that broomhandle putters should be banned, even though the

Royal and Ancient Golf Club confirmed yesterday that nothing will be done until 2000 at the earliest — and not necessarily then.

Torrance was approximately six under par when he defeated Woosnam 4 and 3. From the moment he won the 1st, he held the whip hand. When he holed a 70-yard pitch on the 11th to go two-up and followed this by holding a 15-yard putt on the 12th and hitting his second to five feet on the 13th, he was home, if not dry. Torrance's form has

Woods bandwagon 52

been on the turn and a ninth Ryder Cup appearance may not be out of his reach if he really is running into a vein of form that he can sustain.

Montgomerie had been anxious about his match against Olazabal, but, as it happened, his worries were unfounded. Olazabal is beginning to look tired and his golf was merely competent and without sparkle. The final of the 1984 Amateur Championship, when his short game was little short of miraculous as he beat Montgomerie 5 and 4, was but a memory. Yesterday, Montgomerie won 2 and 1, even though he was putting

so poorly that he failed to hole four from inside eight feet.

We have heard before how Montgomerie is hitting the ball well from tee to green and putting badly. He says the problem is getting worse. "I did not think my putting would get so low," he said. "It's a bit worrying that they are not going in as they used to. There is no pattern to the way I am missing. I am not going to do anything with my putter, but Alastair [Montgomerie's caddie] might be."

On the last two par threes, Montgomerie demonstrated how he can resolve his putting difficulties, hitting the ball so close with mid-irons that even he could not miss. He struck a six-iron iron to three feet at the 14th and a five-iron to four feet at the 16th.

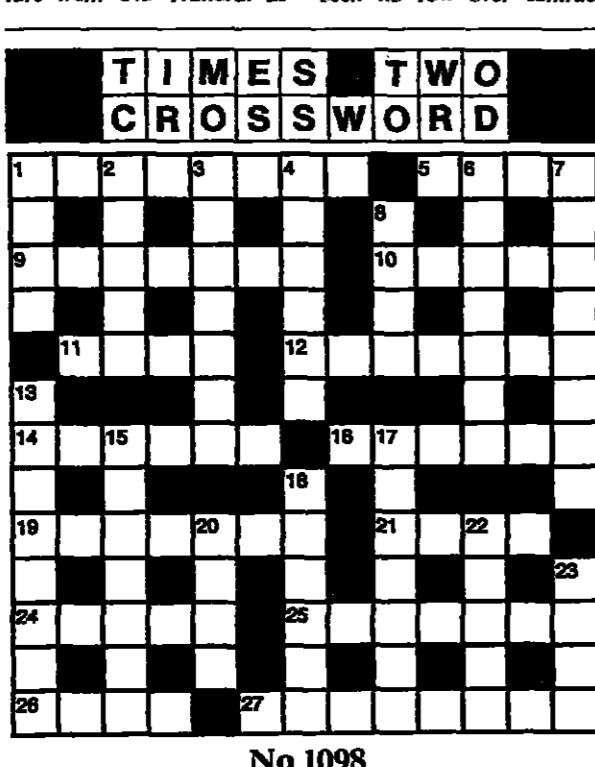
The prize-money at this event is staggering, totalling £2.35 million. Montgomerie and Torrance, who each won £25,000 yesterday, will face one other in one semi-final this morning. The winner will get a further £38,000, the loser £19,000. The other semi-final will be between Clarke and Costantino Rocca. Nice work if you can get it.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: C Montgomerie (Scot) bt J M Olazabal (Sp) 2 and 1; S Torrance (Scot) bt I Woosnam (Wel) 4 and 3; D Clarke (N Ire) bt B Langer (Ger) 2 and 1; C Rocca (It) bt J Pernicek (Swe) 2 and 1.

Brewed beyond the call of duty.



BREWED BY THE CHARLES WELL'S FAMILY BREWERY BEDFORDSHIRE, EST. 1876



No 1098

ACROSS

- 1 Thrash, furiously criticise (5)
- 5 False god (4)
- 9 Tour guide (7)
- 10 Of the city (5)
- 11 Blood vessel (4)
- 12 Needing hard work (7)
- 14 Portable wireless (calloq.) (6)
- 16 Wet-plaster work (6)
- 19 Gun bullet diameter (7)
- 21 Bird; cricket score (4)
- 24 Carnivores; rugby tourists (5)
- 25 Rescue from wreck (7)
- 26 Primitive; offensive (4)
- 27 Type of number, point, virtue (8)

DOWN

- 1 Be without (4)
- 2 Computer clicker (5)
- 3 Fr. dancing sur its point (7)
- 4 Ape-reared aristocrat (Burroughs) (6)
- 6 Having reservations (7)
- 7 Unlikely bet (4,4)
- 8 Supply of earmarked money (4)
- 13 One demanding punctiliousness (8)
- 15 In summary (3,4)
- 17 Rouged; scruffy (7)
- 18 Japanese hostess (6)
- 20 Hit party; attempt (4)
- 22 Group of shops 22 yards (5)
- 23 Cut down ruthlessly (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1097

ACROSS: 1 Camp 3 Browbeat 8 Caliban 10 Extol 11 Crescendo 13 Oracle 15 Castle 17 Symmetrical 20 Drain 21 Edward V 22 Minstry 23 Hall

DOWN: 1 Cockerow 2 Melts 4 Rental 5 Wheelbarrow 6 Extinct 7 Tide 9 Battlements 12 Sea level 14 Abstain 16 Veneer 18 Curia 19 Edam

PRICES NOT INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY. IN TIMES READERS REST OF WORLD ADD 44P PER ITEM STERLING. 1/2 DOLLAR CHARGE IS ONLY FOR USA.

TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS (Part A) - Crossword on Computer 35 discrete levels of difficulty, each volume (Level 1 and Level 2) includes Times Crossword Books 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548,